

ASSESSING CONFLICT AND INTIMACY FOR UNDERSTANDING AND
TREATING COUPLE DISTRESS

A Thesis

by

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Submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies of
Texas A&M University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

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December 2004

Major Subject: Psychology

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ABSTRACT

Assessing Conflict and Intimacy for Understanding and
Treating Couple Distress. (December 2004)

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It has become increasingly apparent that the topic of marital conflict has been given “special status” within the published literature on issues of marriage (Bradbury, Rogge, & Lawrence, 2001; Fincham, 2003). The question has been raised as to whether or not there are other constructs that deserve comparable attention. The present study argues for a closer look at an additional emerging construct, emotional intimacy, and its role in couples’ relationships. Much of the literature on overt conflict and emotional intimacy fails to make an adequate distinction between these two constructs. The present study proposed to derive two factor scales from the Marital Satisfaction Inventory-Revised, Disaffection and Disharmony. Basic psychometric properties of these scales were examined using multiple data sets. Implications were examined for understanding underlying components of relationship distress in both community and clinic couples, and results provided support for the use of the revised factor scales in both clinical and research applications.

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INTRODUCTION

Couple distress, simply stated, occurs when there is a prevalence of relationship problems between partners. A visible indicator of the prevalence of couple distress in the United States is the high number of divorces among married couples (Snyder & Abbott, 2002). Martin and Bumpass (1989) estimated that first marriages in the United States end in divorce anywhere from 50% to 67% of the time. Of these, 50% occur within the first seven years of marriage. The rate of divorce within second marriages is roughly the same or about 10% higher.

It has become increasingly apparent that the topic of marital conflict has been given “special status” within the published literature on issues of marriage (Bradbury, Rogge, & Lawrence, 2001; Fincham, 2003). Three different forms of evidence support this notion. One is that “theories of marriage focus heavily on how couples contend with their differences in opinion” (Bradbury et al., 2001). Koerner and Jacobson (1994) note that some of the leading theories regarding marriage emphasize that when couples become distressed, it is due to the manner in which couples respond to conflict. A coercive cycle may begin whereby each partner either contributes to or maintains negativity by “nagging, complaining, distancing, or becoming violent until the other gives in” (Koerner & Jacobson, 1994, p. 208). Second, there has been little observational research that views anything other than conflict in couple interactions. Bradbury et al. (2001) assert that “most interactional tasks developed within the marital

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area in the last 20 years are designed, either implicitly or explicitly, to promote problem solving and conflict, and of course most coding systems are slanted toward capturing negative behaviors of various kinds.” Third, resolution of conflict in couples has been an important target of intervention, which itself serves as evidence that conflict has special status. “Even in a population where serious, overt conflict probably does not predominate, and where the goal is to prevent adverse marital outcomes well before they appear in the horizon, management of conflict is hypothesized to be an important focus for change” (Bradbury et al., 2001, p. 61).

The attention given to marital conflict over the last 30 years is bringing many researchers to question just how important this construct of conflict is when dealing with couples’ relationships. Does this construct of conflict in fact warrant a central and dominant role in the conceptualization of marital theories and interventions? What exactly is marital conflict, and what has been gained by all this research and attention to interventions focused on conflict resolution in efforts to improve the functioning of couples? Has conflict received disproportionate attention in the marital literature, and what other constructs may deserve comparable attention?

Cutrona (1996) noted that marital interaction research has included tasks that increase the probability of conflict and reduce the probability of supportive spouse behavior, resulting in overestimation of the importance of conflict and underestimation of support by the spouse. Bradbury et al. (2001) noted that researchers have bypassed positive behavior in marriage. This may be because earlier studies revealed that when couples were participating in problem-solving discussions, positive behaviors did not

allow researchers to discriminate between couples who were happy and those who were unhappy.

What does the inability of researchers to discriminate between happy and unhappy couples based solely on positive behaviors in the midst of conflict suggest? There must be other constructs that warrant further attention. An additional construct that has emerged as having a central role in couples' relationships is that of emotional intimacy. A study by Huston and Chorost (1994) suggested that when spouses express affection for their partner, this moderates the longitudinal association between negative behavior and marital satisfaction. A study by Kayser (1993) revealed that along with their partner's control, a lack of emotional intimacy ranks highest as contributing to marital dissatisfaction. Specifically noted as missing from these marriages were aspects such as self-disclosure, emotional support, and companionship. At a minimum, these results argue for a closer look at the construct of emotional intimacy.

Prager (1995) noted that key to intimate relating is sharing something that is deeply personal with the partner, and not strictly spending quality time with him or her. She posited that intimacy involves disclosing personal information and emotions, understanding by both partners, or physical touch and sexuality. Prager further suggests that in order for intimacy to be fulfilled, more than a single intimate interaction is necessary; it must be an ongoing intimate relationship. Intimate interactions, according to Prager, involve three main components: the sharing of personal information exclusively with the partner, the creation of positive emotional tone between partners, and the feeling of being heard and understood by the partner (Prager, 1995).

Cordova and Scott (2001) defined intimacy as a sequence of events in which behavior vulnerable to interpersonal punishment is reinforced by the response of another person. Using a behavioral definition, these researchers posited that an expression of vulnerability involves engaging in behavior that has been associated with response-contingent punishment by another person in other social contexts. In this formulation, the response of the partner is not emphasized. The only requirement is that the partner does not punish the response (Cordova & Scott, 2001).

Previous Measures of Conflict and Intimacy

Given the emphasis in the literature on marital conflict, one would expect to find a comparable number of measures that have been developed to assess this construct. Some of the measures commonly used in the literature include the Relationship Conflict Scale (Arellano & Markman, 1995), the Conflict Scale for Minor and Major Issues (Cramer, 2002), the Marital Communication Inventory (MCI)(Bienvenu, 1970), the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS)(Straus, 1979), the Communication Patterns Questionnaire (Christensen & Sullaway, 1984), the Marital Communication and Agreement Test (Hill, 1970) and the Marital Communication Scale (Kahn, 1970). Several of these measures are described below in more detail.

The Relationship Conflict Scale is a 15-item measure adapted from three subscales of the Managing Affect and Differences Scale (MADS)(Arellano & Markman, 1995). This questionnaire asks each member of a couple to rate on a 5-point Likert scale the extent to which they agree or disagree with statements about conflict in their relationship. The Relationship Conflict Scale is made up of the Negative Escalation,

Negativity, and the Stop-Actions subscales. The MADS is a commonly used measure for the assessment of conflict and relationship functioning in clinic and community couples (Creasey, Kershaw & Boston, 1999).

Another measure of conflict is the Conflict Scale for Minor and Major Issues (Cramer, 2002), which is comprised of 11 items. Using this scale, each partner rates their differences in opinion regarding issues on a 7-point Likert scale (“never” to “always”). One item assesses the frequency of differing opinions, five items assess the frequency of different negative experiences during these conflicts, and five items assess the frequency with which such differences were resolved satisfactorily.

Regarding the construct of intimacy, there are several measures in the literature used in its assessment. Included in this list are the Personal Assessment of Intimacy in Relationships subscale on emotional intimacy (PAIR)(Schaefer & Olson, 1981), the Marital Intimacy Questionnaire (MIQ)(Van den Broucke, Vertommen, & Vandereycken, 1995), the Waring Intimacy Questionnaire (WIQ)(Waring, 1984), the Miller Social Intimacy Scale (Miller & Lefcourt, 1982), the Affective Self-Disclosure Scale for Couples (ASDC)(Davidson, Balswick, & Halverson, 1983), and the Positive Feelings Questionnaire (PFQ)(O’Leary, Fincham, & Turkewitz, 1983). Some are described in more detail below.

A commonly used measure for the construct of emotional intimacy is a subscale of the Personal Assessment of Intimacy in Relationships (PAIR)(Schaefer & Olson, 1981). The Emotional Intimacy subscale of the PAIR measures partners’ overall feelings of intimacy in their relationship. The Emotional Intimacy scale has six items

and uses a 5-point Likert scale (“strongly agree” to “strongly disagree”) to assess partners’ overall perceived intimacy in the relationship. Items are summed to yield a total score for this subscale, with a lower number indicating greater relationship intimacy. The PAIR is one of the most commonly used measures of relationship intimacy for both clinic and community couples (Talmadge & Dabbs, 1990).

Another measure of intimacy is the Marital Intimacy Questionnaire (MIQ)(Van den Broucke, Vertommen, & Vandereycken, 1995). This scale is a self-report measure containing 56 items that assess five components: intimacy problems, consensus, openness, affection, and commitment. The theory behind this scale posits that intimacy primarily refers to a dyadic state (the degree of connectedness or interdependence between two partners) that emerges from specific ways of interacting. The model contains six structural dimensions of intimacy: dyadic level (affective, cognitive, and instrumental interdependence); individual level (authenticity and openness); and social group or network level (exclusiveness).

Related to intimacy and the loss thereof, Kayser (1993) defined the construct of disaffection as a decrease in emotional attachment over time, which includes a decline in caring for the partner, an emotional estrangement, as well as a growing sense of apathy and indifference toward one’s partner. Described another way, Kayser noted that disaffection involves “the replacement of positive affect with neutral affect” (Kayser, 1993, p. 6). The theoretical model of marital disaffection proposed by Kayser suggests progression through a series of stages and assumes that there were positive feelings in

the relationship to begin with. These stages include disillusionment, hurt, anger, and ambivalence before the development of disaffection (Kayser, 1993).

To measure disaffection, Kayser developed a Likert scale that included items from Rubin's (1973) Love scale and items from Schaefer and Olson's (1981) Personal Assessment of Intimacy of Relationships. Additionally, items of her own were included. Initially, a 27-item version of the measure was administered to a sample of 76 spouses. Correlational analyses between this scale and the Disaffection scale by Snyder and Regts (1982) revealed a high correlation ($r = .93$). Inverse correlations with marital happiness and marital closeness were also found ($r = -.56$ and $r = -.61$, respectively). Based on further item analyses, only 21 items were retained for the final version. As a measure of internal reliability, Cronbach's coefficient alpha for this disaffection scale was found to be .97.

Disaffection and Disharmony on the Marital Satisfaction Inventory

Much of the literature on overt conflict and emotional intimacy fails to make an adequate distinction between these two constructs. Instead, most frequently used measures tend to assess marital satisfaction more globally. One of the oldest and most commonly used measures of marital satisfaction is the Locke-Wallace Marital Adjustment Test (LWMAT)(Locke & Wallace, 1959). Despite the intended use by the authors to measure "accommodation of partners to each other," it is more often used to measure marital satisfaction (Fischer & Corcoran, 1994, p. 131). There are a few disadvantages to using this measure. First, it is only applicable to married couples. The specific wording of items precludes use with unmarried romantic partners. Second, the

normative sample included predominantly white, middle-class couples, which makes it difficult to generalize to other populations (L'Abate & Bagarozzi, 1993).

Third, it is difficult to compare with newer instruments. Different authors have made direct comparisons between the LWMAT and newer instruments, erroneously assuming that the various scales are equivalent. Though some of the measures used in the comparisons assess similar constructs, individual items have different weightings and scales have different ranges, making comparison impractical. One study by Crane, Allgood, Larson, and Griffin (1990) revealed differences of up to 14 points between measures, which is important in demonstrating that scores across assessment instruments are not equivalent and should not be treated as such (Cohen, 1985; Crane, Allgood, Larson, & Griffin, 1990).

In hopes of a scale with stronger psychometric properties and broader applications, the Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS) was developed (Spanier, 1976). The Dyadic Adjustment Scale is a self-report inventory containing 32 items to assess adjustment in close relationships. With scores ranging from 0 to 151, those scores below 97 indicate poor relationship adjustment. There are four distinct subscales including dyadic satisfaction, dyadic cohesion, dyadic consensus, and affectional expression. Additionally, marital stability may be measured based on studies that show its ability to discriminate between couples who stay together and those who divorce (Vaughn & Matyastik-Baier, 1999). Limitations of the DAS include confusion over whether or not the DAS is a global, unidimensional instrument or a multidimensional instrument (Busby, Crane, Larson, & Christensen, 1995; Spanier & Thompson, 1982).

Additionally, there are contradictions in the literature regarding whether or not the subscales distinctly measure satisfaction, cohesion, consensus, and affectional expression. Spanier and Thompson (1982) noted that it was not the original intent to use the subscales as separate measures, but later they cited research using them distinctively, further noting their robustness and distinct meaning (Busby, Crane, Larson, & Christensen, 1995; Thompson & Spanier, 1983). If discriminating between distressed and nondistressed couples is the only practical use of the DAS, then other more efficient measures could serve the same purpose. The Marital Adjustment Test (MAT; Locke & Wallace, 1959) or the Kansas Marital Satisfaction Scale (KMSS; Schumm, Paff-Bergen, Hatch, Obiorah, Copeland, Meens, & Bugaighis, 1986) both serve the same purpose more efficiently (Busby, Crane, Larson, & Christensen, 1995). Additionally, the DAS neglects to address issues of gender, and the norms may not be appropriate for non-Caucasians (Casas & Ortiz, 1985; Kazak, Jarmas, & Snitzer, 1988).

Crane, Busby, and Larson (1991) noted three attempts at evaluating the subscales of the DAS. The first attempt was conducted by Spanier (1976), when the original scale was derived, which sought to test whether or not dyadic adjustment was in fact a combination of related subscales. Spanier and Thompson (1982) conducted the second factor analysis and were unable to replicate the subscales originally proposed. They reported that three of the factors were “substantially related.” Despite this fact, their interpretation was that the subscales were valid. The third attempt was conducted by Sharpley and Cross (1982). In this study the original procedures used by Spanier (1976) were used to no avail, and the original factor structure was not replicated (Crane, Busby,

& Larson, 1991; Kazak, et al., 1988). Evidence for four distinct subscales was insufficient.

The 1991 study by Crane, Busby and Larson also revealed that the Dyadic Satisfaction Subscale was problematic and was not supported in a sample with 98 distressed and 145 nondistressed volunteer couples. Five of 10 items on both the Dyadic Satisfaction Subscale (when applied to the total sample of distressed and nondistressed couples) and the Dyadic Consensus Subscale (when applied to the nondistressed sample) had factor loadings under .30. Based on these results, researchers reported that the validity of the factor structure of the DAS in nondistressed (or community) couples is highly questionable and should not be used by family professionals with couples who are not distressed (Crane, Busby, & Larson, 1991).

Kazak et al. conducted a study in an attempt to replicate Spanier's 1976 original factor analysis in a sample of parents who participated in a research study on family stress and coping. Effort was made to examine the DAS factor structure in men and women separately. Results showed that a four-factor solution was more adequate among women than men, and a three-factor solution was best for men. In the factor analysis on the data with women, there was one strong factor that accounted for 74.5% of the variance, and three weaker factors accounted for less than 10% each. Factor analysis of the men's data revealed one strong factor accounting for 78.1% of the variance and two weaker factors (Kazak et al., 1988).

Addressing some of the previous limitations is the Marital Satisfaction Inventory-Revised (MSI-R; Snyder, 1997). The MSI-R is a self-report measure

containing 150 true-or-false items that assess the nature and extent of distress along several key dimensions of relationships. The measure has a total of 13 scales. Two of these (Inconsistency and Conventionalization) are validity scales, one scale is a global distress scale (Global Distress; GDS) and ten additional scales measure specific dimensions of distress in relationships. These ten scales include the following: Affective Communication (AFC), Problem-Solving Communication (PSC), Aggression (AGG), Time Together (TTO), Disagreement About Finances (FIN), Sexual Dissatisfaction (SEX), Role Orientation (ROR), Family History of Distress (FAM), Dissatisfaction With Children (DSC), and Conflict Over Child Rearing (CCR).

In an attempt to determine the individual contributions of overt conflict and emotional intimacy to marital satisfaction or dissolution, Snyder and Regts (1982) conducted a factor-analysis of 127 items from the original MSI comprising the Global Distress scale and the scales most highly predictive of global distress (Affective Communication, Problem-Solving Communication, and Time Together). After factor analysis was conducted, the two broad-band factors that emerged were labeled Disaffection (DAF) and Disharmony (DHR). These scales allowed for distinction between “individuals’ perceptions of overt marital disharmony and feelings of alienation or disaffection from their spouse” (Snyder & Regts, 1982). Disaffection “reflects the experience of inadequate support and understanding, both affective and behavioral isolation, and an inclination toward separation or divorce” (p. 741). It relates closer to constructs such as emotional expressiveness, empathy, and emotional closeness. By comparison, Disharmony reflects “specific conflicts and perceived deficits in problem

solving” (p. 741). It was determined that these two constructs were able to relate to external criteria as well as discriminate between clinic and community couples, but they were normally distributed in different populations. Disharmony was prevalent in clinic couples, and Disaffection was infrequent in community couples.

Statement of the Problem

A review of the marital literature suggests that couple distress can be disassembled into two broad components: overt conflict and emotional disconnection. Existing measures of relationship functioning frequently fail to distinguish between these two components when assessing global marital distress. Moreover, existing measures of couple conflict and emotional intimacy vary widely in response format and often suffer from inadequate evidence of reliability and validity, limiting their use both in clinical and research applications. A previous response to this dilemma (Snyder & Regts, 1982) involved distillation of two factor scales from the original Marital Satisfaction Inventory deemed to reflect separate components of Disharmony and Disaffection. A subsequent revision of the Marital Satisfaction Inventory (MSI-R; Snyder, 1997) emphasized the original profile scales and failed to derive revised factor scales or examine their psychometric properties.

The present study proposed to derive revised Disharmony and Disaffection factor scales for the MSI-R based on items from the original scales retained in the revised instrument. Archival data were used to examine basic psychometric properties of these scales including scale distributions in community and clinic samples, internal consistency and temporal stability, and discriminant validity. Archival data were also

used to examine scales' relation to additional ratings of the individual and relationship functioning provided by individuals in couple therapy and their therapist. In addition, construct validity of the revised Disharmony and Disaffection factor scales was explored in a new sample of community couples using a broad array of relationship measures assessing relationship conflict and emotional intimacy.

Implications of findings were examined for understanding underlying components of relationship distress in both community and clinic couples, and for use of the revised factor scales in both clinical and research applications.

METHOD

Participants

Archival data from six different data sets, as well as new data from a Bryan/College Station data set were used throughout this study. The U.S. standardization sample included 1020 married community couples (2,040 individuals). The test-retest reliability sample from an early North Carolina study included 37 couples (74 individuals) from the general population who completed the original MSI twice separated by a 6-week interval. These 37 couples comprised a portion of the original standardization sample of the MSI during its initial development. The test-retest reliability sample from a Bryan/College Station study included 105 couples (210 individuals) from the general population who completed the MSI-R twice separated by a 6-week interval. The Western Psychological Services national validation study consisted of 323 couples (646 individuals) in marital therapy with 161 therapists. Snyder (1979) and Snyder (1997) provide further information about these samples. Archival data from the Detroit clinical validation study included 50 couples evaluated prior to beginning conjoint marital therapy (Snyder, Wills, & Keiser, 1981) and the Detroit community validation study included 50 couples from the general population (Scheer & Snyder, 1984).

A newer Bryan/College Station sample included 108 couples (216 individuals) recruited using a random phone sampling technique, posted notices, and referral from past participants. Participants were required to be dating or married, 18 years of age or older, in an opposite-sex relationship, and they must have cohabitated for at least six

months. Participants were compensated by being entered into a drawing for prizes that ranged in value from \$5-\$20. Each couple also received a packet containing information on relationship enhancement, helpful and detrimental communication habits, and strategies for increasing positivity in the relationship.

Measures

All couples in the archival data sets completed the Marital Satisfaction Inventory or the Marital Satisfaction Inventory-Revised, whichever was the most current at the time. Couples in the newer Bryan/College Station sample completed several measures, described below:

Adult Attachment Questionnaire (AAQ): Simpson, Rholes, and Phillips' (1996) AAQ was used to assess partners' overall attachment style. The AAQ is a 17-item self-report inventory that measures level of avoidance and anxiety in one's relationship. Items are answered on a 7-point Likert scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree). The AAQ is a standard measure used routinely for the assessment of attachment style in clinic and community couples (Bouthillier et al., 2002; Diamond et al., 1999).

Marital Satisfaction Inventory-Revised: The MSI-R (Snyder, 1997) is a multidimensional self-report instrument assessing marital distress and marital satisfaction. For this study, administration included three scales of the MSI-R composed of 36 True/False items, including the Global Distress scale (GDS), the Disaffection scale (DAF), and Disharmony scale (DHR). The GDS items measure overall relationship satisfaction, the DAF items measure emotional support and intimacy, and the DHR items reflect overt conflict and deficits in problem-solving (Snyder & Regts, 1982). The MSI-

R has been used routinely in research with both community and clinic couples (Snyder & Aikman, 1999).

Personal Assessment of Intimacy in Relationships (PAIR): The Emotional Intimacy subscale of the PAIR (Schaefer & Olson, 1981) was used to measure partners' overall feelings of intimacy in their relationship. The Emotional Intimacy scale has 6 items and uses a 5-point Likert scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree) to assess partners' overall perceived intimacy in the relationship. Items are summed to yield a total score for this subscale, with a lower number indicating greater relationship intimacy. The PAIR is one of the most commonly used measures of relationship intimacy for both clinic and community couples (Denton et al., 2000; Talmadge & Dabbs, 1990).

Emotion Regulation Scale (ERS): The ERS (Gratz & Roemer, 2004) is a 36-item, self-report measure assessing individuals' typical levels of emotion regulation and dysregulation. This measure assesses various aspects of emotion regulation including awareness, understanding, and acceptance of emotions; the ability to behave in accordance with desired goals regardless of the emotion being experienced; and the ability to use situationally-appropriate emotion regulation strategies flexibly to modulate emotional responses as desired in order to meet individual goals and situational demands. Individuals also completed an 8-item parallel partner-report version of the ERS that described their partner's ability to regulate their emotions when upset.

Relationship Conflict Scale: The Relationship Conflict Scale is a 15-item measure adapted from 3 subscales of the Managing Affect and Differences Scale

(MADS; Arellano & Markman, 1995). This questionnaire asks each member of a couple to rate on a 5-point Likert scale the extent to which they agree or disagree with statements about conflict in their relationship. The Relationship Conflict Scale is made up of the Negative Escalation, Negativity, and the Stop-Actions subscales. The MADS is a commonly used measure for the assessment of conflict and relationship functioning in clinic and community couples (Creasey, Kershaw, & Boston, 1999).

Interpersonal Reactivity Index: The Interpersonal Reactivity Index (Davis, 1983), is a self-report measure containing 4 subscales (Perspective-Taking, Fantasy, Empathic Concern, and Personal Distress) that each tap some global concept of empathy. In the original 28-item measure, there are 7-items on each of 4 subscales; however, the adapted version for this study included only 2 items from Perspective-Taking and 2 items from Empathic Concern, with a self-report and partner-report format for each question. The Perspective-Taking subscale measures one's attempt to adopt another's viewpoint, and Empathic Concern measures "other-oriented" feelings of sympathy and concern for one's partner.

Original Construction of the Marital Satisfaction Inventory

The original Marital Satisfaction Inventory (MSI) consisted of 280 items. Snyder and Regts (1982) conducted a form of exploratory factor analysis, principal axis factor analysis with varimax rotation, on 127 items from four scales of the original MSI: Global Distress Scale (GDS), Affective Communication Scale (AFC), Problem-solving Communication Scale (PSC), and Time Together Scale (TTO). Final item composition of factor scales reflected the fewest items necessary for a given scale to retain a

correlation $\geq .90$ with its original factor score. From this analysis, two factors were retained, accounting for 22% and 18% of the common variance in the 127 items. For Disaffection (DAF), 26 items with loadings from .40 to .79 were retained, and the scale score correlated with the factor score .95. For Disharmony (DHR), 18 items were retained with loadings from .35 to .60, and the scale score correlated with the factor score .92.

Revision of the Scales

In 1997, the MSI was revised. Details are provided in Snyder & Aikman (1999), but essentially, the original 280 items were reduced to 140 items by cutting each scale's length approximately in half. A 10-item Aggression scale was also added, yielding the current 150-item measure, now called the Marital Satisfaction Inventory-Revised (MSI-R). Items were retained in such a way as to (a) preserve items having high item-scale total correlations, and (b) preserve heterogeneity of item response rates (some items to which few persons respond in the scored direction, and other items to which many persons respond in the scored direction). The latter criterion helps the scale to discriminate among levels of the construct across a broad range. After reduction of the MSI's 280 items to the MSI-R's 150 items, 10 items from the original 26 were retained for DAF, and 10 items from the original 18 were retained for DHR. The only modest difference in item content was a change in wording from "marriage" to "relationship" and from "spouse" to "partner," in order to facilitate this measure's use with nontraditional couples.

Procedures

Regarding the revision of the MSI and the retention of fewer DAF and DHR items, it is necessary to determine whether the remaining 20 items from these two subscales reflect 2 distinct factors as previously suggested in exploratory factor analysis of 127 items. Tables 1 and 2 show the items retained for DAF and DHR, respectively, and also contain their current wording. The U.S. standardization sample was split in half, and confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was conducted on the first half of this sample. LISREL 8.51, weighted least squares method (WLS), was used to assess the adequacy of both a 1- and 2-factor model on the 20 retained items. For fit indices, we examined the χ^2 statistic, the goodness-of-fit index (GFI: Jöreskog & Sörbom, 1993), the normed-fit index (NFI; Bentler & Bonett, 1980), the Tucker-Lewis index (TLI; see Marsh, Balla, & McDonald, 1988), the comparative fit index (CFI; Bentler, 1990), and the root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA; Browne & Cudeck, 1993; Finch & West, 1997). Values of the GFI, NFI, TLI, and CFI range from zero to 1.00, with a value close to 1.00 indicating a better fit (e.g. Mulaik et al., 1989). For the RMSEA, values of less than .05 are considered a close fit and less than .08 an adequate fit; values of greater than .10 suggest room for improvement in the model (Finch & West, 1997). The TLI, CFI, and RMSEA have been found to be unaffected by sample size (Bentler, 1990; Fan, Thompson, & Wang, 1999; Marsh et al., 1988).

To assess factorial invariance across gender, we tested a sequence of multisample, “stacked” measurement models (cf. Bollen, 1989; Byrne, 1989; Jöreskog & Sörbom, 1993; & Lomax, 1983) on the second half of the data from the U.S.

standardization sample. We sequentially tested the equivalence across groups of (a) covariance matrices, (b) factor form (number of factors), (c) factor structure (loadings or LX matrix), (d) correlations among the three factors (PH matrix), and (e) error matrices (TD matrix). Factor variances were fixed to 1.0 to identify the model. To determine if constraining matrices to be invariant across groups led to a significant decrease in model fit, we performed change in $\Delta \chi^2$ tests comparing the constrained and unconstrained models (see Bollen, 1989; Byrne, 1989; Jöreskog & Sörbom, 1993).

The second step in the present study involved using the MSI-R data on the two new factor scales to derive new norms and identify optimal cut-offs for distinguishing between community and clinic couples, as described in Jacobson & Truax (1991). Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curves were derived to reflect sensitivity and specificity in identifying clinic couples for each possible score.

Cronbach's alpha coefficients were calculated to assess internal consistency of DAF and DHR. Mean inter-item correlations as well as test-retest reliability were also assessed. *T*-tests were conducted to discriminate between clinic and community couples. Additionally, convergent and discriminant validity of the DAF and DHR factor scales was examined using correlational analyses, and correlations of the DAF and DHR scales with a broad range of alternative measures of relationship conflict and intimacy (described earlier) were subjected to principal components analysis with non-orthogonal (oblimin) rotation. Restriction of the factor analysis to these measures was based on empirical and theoretical grounds.

Finally, criterion-related validity was assessed by examining DAF and DHR scores correlated with self, partner, and clinician ratings. In the Detroit validation studies, couples completed the MSI-R, were interviewed, and then a clinician completed the rating form. To construct actuarially-based interpretive systems for these scales, it was first necessary to identify statistically significant and reliable associations between the clinician ratings and the DAF and DHR subscales. Actuarial tables were created indicating differential prevalence of the criterion presence at low, moderate, and high factor scale scores. The same procedure was used with the Western Psychological Services national validation sample but was based on clinician ratings as well as self- and partner-ratings.

RESULTS

Scale Derivation

The results of the 1- and 2-factor models, as well as the revised 2-factor model, can be found in Table 3. Differences in χ^2 were calculated (Table 4) comparing the 1- and 2-factor models, and the results suggested that a 2-factor model is a significantly better fit ($\Delta\chi^2[1, N = 535] = 140.98, p < .01$). Upon examination of the factor loadings and modification indices, 10 items having factor loadings ranging from .75 to .99 were selected to comprise the scale representing the first dimension of marital distress, Disaffection. Item content reflects characteristics such as time spent together as a couple and expression of affection. Nine items having factor loadings ranging from .69 to .91 were selected to comprise the second scale, Disharmony, which reflects the second dimension of marital distress. The content of these items reflects how well a couple solves problems and the ability of the couple to understand their partner's feelings or point of view. The selection of these items included all but one of the items retained during the revision of the MSI. The decision was made to discard Item 49 because of its loading on factor 2 of only .48. All other factor loadings were $\geq .69$. Additionally, Item 49 had the largest modification index (21.12), suggesting the model would fit much better if that parameter was allowed to be free.

Results of the sequence models to determine how well the model fits across gender are presented in Table 5. Results suggested that the covariance matrices for the two groups were very similar ($\chi^2[190, N = 535] = 258.81$; GFI = .99; NFI = .99; TLI = 1.00; CFI = 1.00 ; and RMSEA = .03). The model for an equal number of factors

also fits well ($\chi^2[302, N = 535] = 746.97$; GFI = .98; NFI = .98; TLI = .98; CFI = .99; and RMSEA = .05). When the loading (LX) matrix to be invariant across groups was constrained, there was a significant loss in fit ($\Delta\chi^2[19, N = 535] = 103.12, p < .0001$), suggesting the factor loadings may not be equivalent across gender. When constraints were then put on the PH matrix (factor correlations) to be invariant across gender, there was not a significant loss in fit ($\Delta\chi^2[19, N = 535] = 0, p = 1$), suggesting that the factor correlations were very similar across gender. Constraining the error (TD) matrices to be invariant across gender did lead to a significant decrease in fit ($\Delta\chi^2[1, N = 535] = 4.49, p = .03$). However, because this is a very restrictive assumption and because the overall goodness-of-fit is still good, these differences were not pursued any further. Even with everything forced to be invariant, the model still fits well even by the strictest standards. RMSEA decreased despite that the model fit worse as invariance was forced. RMSEA values of .05 or less indicate a close fit, according to Browne and Cudeck (1993). Examination of the large sample size and critical N values reveals that power to detect even the smallest differences is large. A good, unbiased indication of the goodness-of-fit of the model (1.00 and .98 in the current analysis), regardless of sample size, is the TLI (Finch & West, 1997).

Scale Distributions

After rescoring data on the two new factor scales, the U.S. standardization sample was used to derive new norms and identify optimal cut-offs for distinguishing between community and clinic couples. Using the methodology proposed by Jacobson & Truax (1991), scores of 2.40 or greater indicate risk of being in the “distressed” group

for Disaffection. For Disharmony, scores of 5.82 or greater indicate risk of being in the “distressed” group. Analyses of frequency statistics indicate that Disaffection is an infrequent phenomenon and is completely absent in about 56.2% of the community population. However, in the same community sample, Disharmony is more normally distributed and is present to some degree in all of the couples. In the clinic sample, Disaffection is more normally distributed and is present to some degree in all of these couples. Disharmony, on the other hand, is present in nearly all of the couples, and the distribution is skewed more toward the higher levels of conflict. Figures 1 and 2 show the distributions for both community and clinic samples on each scale. Receiver-Operating Characteristic (ROC) curves for each scale on both the U.S. standardization sample and the Detroit validation studies are shown in Figures 3 and 4. The area under the curve was .79 for DAF and .84 for DHR in the U.S. standardization sample. For the Detroit validation studies, the area under the curve was .90 and .88 for DAF and DHR, respectively. Plots of sensitivity and specificity for each scale were derived to determine the predictability of clinical status and are shown for both studies in Tables 6 and 7. Rather than a single cut-off score, ROC curves provide predictive accuracy data for the full range of cut-offs from 0-9 for DHR and 0-10 for DAF.

Reliability

Both DAF and DHR were shown to be internally consistent ($\alpha = .84$ and $.80$, respectively; mean inter-item correlation = $.35$ and $.30$, respectively) on the U.S. standardization sample (Table 8). Cronbach’s alpha coefficients of $.70$ or higher are usually considered adequate or desirable as measures of internal consistency, and alpha

coefficients above .85 are generally considered relatively high (Schmitt, 1996).

Interpretive guidelines proposed by Clark & Watson (1995) suggest α 's $\geq .60$ and mean interitem r 's $\geq .25$ reflect moderate to strong internal consistency.

Test-retest reliability was derived on a sample of 105 couples recruited from the Bryan/College Station area by computing a simple correlation between the first and second administration of the MSI-R. These couples completed the entire MSI-R twice with an average six-week interval between the first and second administration, separate from the U.S. standardization sample. The test-retest correlation for Disaffection was .50 and was .83 for Disharmony. The reliability coefficient for DAF was lower than anticipated, but is likely due in part to the non-normality of distributional properties of the community and clinic samples on DAF and DHR, respectively. When temporal stability was analyzed in a stratified, North Carolina sample of untreated couples, test-retest correlations of .85 and .83 were found for the revised Disaffection and Disharmony, respectively (Table 9).

Certain characteristics of the response sets of individuals completing the MSI-R can provide an indication as to the profile validity. In addition to profiles with a large number of omitted items or double-marked answers, examination of scores on Inconsistency (INC) and Conventionalization (CNV) scales is useful. High scores on Inconsistency may indicate random responses or sporadic inattention to item content. Distortion of relationship appraisals in an idealized direction reflected by high scores on Conventionalization may suggest a reluctance to engage in critical analysis of relationship processes and areas of potential concern (Snyder, 1997). If high CNV

scores are paired with high scores on the Global Distress scale (GDS), then this serves as an additional indication of random responding. Thirty cases met the first of these two criteria, and another 30 cases met the second criterion. If profiles reflecting scores of ≥ 60 on INC are excluded as well as those that have both CNV and GDS scores of ≥ 50 , reducing the sample from 211 to 151 cases, the test-retest reliability coefficients change to an acceptable level of .75 and .84 for Disaffection and Disharmony, respectively (see Table 9). This indicates that scores on the MSI-R are stable over time.

Validity

Discriminative validity. Group means and standard deviations for men and women in the U.S. standardization sample and original Bryan/College Station clinic sample are shown in Table 10. *T*-test analyses were conducted and confirmed the ability of both Disaffection and Disharmony to discriminate between community and clinic couples (for DAF: $t(2137) = -13.09, p < .001$ (two-tailed), $d = -1.34$; for DHR: $t(2137) = -12.51, p < .001, d = -1.28$). In the Detroit validation study samples, *t*-test analyses also confirmed the ability of both DAF and DHR to discriminate between community and clinic couples (for DAF: $t(198) = 12.10, p < .001$ (two-tailed), $d = -1.71$; for DHR: $t(198) = 12.99, p < .001, d = -1.84$).

Convergent and discriminant validity. Convergent and discriminant validity using several measures were examined on the sample of 108 community couples from the Bryan/College Station Emotion Regulation study. Significant correlations of Disaffection and Disharmony with the measures in the Bryan/College Station Emotion

Regulation study are reported in Table 11. These 11 measures including DAF and DHR were used in a Principal Components Analysis.

Factor analysis of these items resulted in two factors, that following non-orthogonal, oblimin rotation, respectively accounted for 49.69% and 10.56% of the common variance. These two factors combined accounted for about 60.25% of the common variance. Two factors were extracted based on having eigenvalues ≥ 1 (5.47 and 1.16) and based on the scree plot. The pattern and structure matrices can be found in Table 12.

Actuarial validity. Scale-by-criterion cross-validated correlation matrices were constructed for split-half mixed-gender samples from the Detroit validation studies (Table 13) and from the WPS national validation sample (Table 14). For both mixed-gender split-halves, criterion correlations were examined to identify those criteria that obtained replicated correlations significant at $p < .05$ (joint probability $p < .0025$). This conservative criterion was selected to ensure that correlations reflecting chance covariation were excluded while only those correlates that would generalize to a majority of maritally distressed individuals were selected.

In the Detroit validation study, overall, 79 of 170 scale correlates were significant at the $p < .05$ level in both split-halves. The number of correlates per scale was 38 for DAF (Table 15) and 41 for DHR (Table 16). Thirty-four of 45 criteria correlated with both scales. Additionally, some criteria demonstrated little variability in the mixed-gender split-half sample (e.g., defensive about self, dissatisfied with occupation) and, therefore, did not correlate well with DAF or DHR.

In the WPS national validation study, 224 of 308 scale correlates were significant at the $p < .05$ level in both split-halves. The number of correlates per scale was 109 for DAF (Table 17) and 115 for DHR (Table 18). Ninety-six of 129 criteria correlated with both scales. Some criteria (e.g., describes self as physically abusive, describes self or spouse as tight with money) did not correlate well with DAF or DHR.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Results of the current study lend additional support to the extant literature in suggesting that couple distress can be disassembled into two broad components: overt conflict and emotional disconnection. Confirmatory factor analysis results indicated that a 2-factor model has high “goodness-of-fit” as proposed. As noted by Snyder and Regts (1982), Disaffection reflects the experience of inadequate support and understanding, both affective and behavioral isolation, and an inclination toward separation or divorce. Disharmony reflects more specific conflict and perception of deficits in problem-solving.

Similarly, confirmatory factor analysis suggested that the model was generally equivalent for both men and women. Despite the fact that the model progressively fit somewhat less well across men and women as more parameters were forced to be invariant, the overall goodness-of-fit remained high, even by the strictest standards. According to Finch and West (1997), “statistically significant decreases in χ^2 can occur with improvements in fit that are trivial in magnitude in large N studies” (p. 451). This is also the case with statistically significant increases in χ^2 , and because of this, it is important to examine the magnitude and the change in value of the fit indices (Widaman & Reise, 1997).

Analyses of the frequency statistics and histograms for community and clinic samples separately are consistent with previous findings in the literature (Snyder & Regts, 1982). These results suggest two interacting but separate components of marital distress. DAF and DHR factor scales both had a high degree of internal consistency,

test-retest reliability, and both convergent and discriminant validity across external criteria of marital functioning.

From the present results, and consistent with previous findings by Snyder and Regts (1982), the Disharmony subscale reflecting overt conflict or the perceived inability to resolve differences is the more helpful dimension in discriminating among couples in community samples. For clinical samples, the Disaffection subscale that involves alienation and affective withdrawal is better at discriminating among these couples. Results from the present study also provide evidence for the ability of the DAF and DHR subscales of the MSI-R to discriminate among both the sources and levels of relationship distress including overt conflict and lack of emotional intimacy among clinical and community couples.

Analyses of internal consistency for DAF and DHR were favorable, indicating that endorsement of items within subscale were convergent. Test-retest reliability, when measured with non-clinical samples, results in a restriction of range that is problematic. Morey (2003) notes that “variances in measures of clinical constructs will be smaller in normal than in clinical samples and this restricted variance will attenuate all (including reliability) correlations with scale scores.” Morey argues that there is no single cut-off for optimal stability that can be applied to all theoretical constructs (Morey, 2003).

Conclusions from the present study lend support to a study by Rogge and Bradbury (1999) which suggested a “two factor” hypothesis, whereby the prediction of marital dissolution was separable from the prediction of dissatisfaction over the same span of time, given the variables aggression and negative communication, respectively.

The study was conducted on 56 newlywed couples over 4 years. Rogge and Bradbury found that marital satisfaction could be predicted 4 years later by initial marital communication, but the construct added little to the prediction of marital dissolution. Marital dissolution was, however, predicted by initial aggression, but this construct did not indicate much regarding the prediction of marital satisfaction. In other words, as suggested in the present study, conflict alone does not seem to discriminate between community and clinic couples. Rogge and Bradbury (1999) further suggested that in intact marriages, communication skills were predictive of marital satisfaction, and relationship satisfaction was eroded more rapidly by hostility and neuroticism than by poor communication.

Another study by Bradbury, Rogge, Hahlweg, Engl, and Thurmaier (in press) helped to refine the two-factor model of marital outcome and lends further support to our hypothesis emphasizing the importance of Disaffection in marital satisfaction. The study in press added to Rogge and Bradbury's (1999) finding, in that marital satisfaction was also predicted by specific emotional expression observed in the behavior of couples. Although hostility and aggression were still salient, the research showed that prediction of marital dissolution was not limited to hostility and aggression, but went beyond to include the general propensity to experience and express negative affect (similar to Disaffection). Results from the study in press also suggest that perhaps heightened reactivity to stress may be included as an additional predictor of marital outcome. This corroborates our hypothesis that Disaffection might be more consequential for marital dissolution than Disharmony.

The findings of Rogge and Bradbury (1999), combined with those findings from Bradbury et al. (in press), expand our current understanding in suggesting that during the first five years of marriage, communication may have a more limited role regarding dissolution than the literature previously thought. Poor communication was useful in identifying couples who grew dissatisfied but remain married. The implications of these combined findings are that focusing on poor communication and problem-solving skills may be important but too narrow for comprehensive intervention when emotional disengagement is present.

Other research also suggests that when a couple interacts, the actual content of the communication is less important than the affective features when assessing current relationship quality (Gottman, 1979; Gottman et al., 1977; Hahlweg et al., 1984; Vivian, 1986). Again, this is consistent with present findings in discriminating between community and clinic couples.

Information gained from the present study is useful in clinical work. Knowing that Disharmony is present in all clinic couples to some degree could prove very useful in planning effective treatment interventions and conceptualizing difficulties within the couple's relationship. Knowing that Disharmony is normally distributed, even in the community sample, is also useful for treatment planning. It may suggest that there are differences in the way that community and clinic couples handle conflict as it arises. If conflict is the primary problem within a couple's relationship, the therapist may immediately focus on maintaining the conflict to prevent escalation through communication skills and problem-solving strategies.

Treatment becomes more difficult when emotional disengagement enters a couple's relationship. Disaffection was hardly present in community couples and was approximately normally distributed in clinic couples, which adds valuable information to effective treatment planning. In cases where emotional disengagement is present, the therapist must temporarily shift focus away from communication skills and problem-solving strategies in order to create a framework for the couple where these skills can be implemented. This would include creating positive interactional experiences and restoring old experiences. Couples who are very disengaged may have a difficult time communicating and problem-solving.

Future research could longitudinally track whether or not high levels of Disharmony lead to Disaffection over time by examining whether there is necessarily a natural progression from one to the other. Some questions that arise are: Does chronic conflict progress to initiate (or predict) an additional process of Disaffection? Why do some clinic couples show Disaffection while others do not? Did couples who show Disaffection first show high levels of Disharmony? Answers to these questions could be found by a longitudinal study that frequently assesses the degree to which these constructs are visible.

Additional research with both clinical and community samples will be desirable in many other respects as well. Future investigations should examine the extent to which the relations of the Disaffection and Disharmony scales to external criteria replicate across other cultural populations, particularly those in which the MSI-R has been translated accordingly. Findings from these studies would be beneficial in examining

the psychological equivalence of scores in the other languages to those in the standard English form. This information would also be useful in planning effective treatment interventions and for evaluating cross-cultural differences in couple functioning.

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APPENDIX

Table 1

Item Composition of Disaffection Scale

-
- | | | |
|------|--|----------|
| 13. | My partner likes to share his or her leisure time with me. | (F; TTO) |
| 14. | There is a great deal of love and affection expressed in our relationship. | (F; AFC) |
| 16. | There are many things about our relationship that please me. | (F; GDS) |
| 24. | The good things in our relationship far outweigh the bad. | (F; GDS) |
| 45. | My partner and I don't have much in common to talk about. | (T; TTO) |
| 67. | The future of our relationship is too uncertain for us to make any serious plans. | (T; GDS) |
| 72. | My partner and I are happier than most of the couples I know. | (F; GDS) |
| 88. | My partner does many different things to show me that he or she loves me. | (F; AFC) |
| 104. | I believe that our relationship is as pleasant as that of most of the people I know. | (F; GDS) |
| 128. | I believe our relationship is reasonably happy. | (F; GDS) |
-

Note. Item numbers reflect the number of the item in the MSI-R item booklet. Information in parentheses indicates the scoring direction and profile scale membership. AFC = Affective Communication; GDS = Global Distress; TTO = Time Together

Table 2

Item Composition of Disharmony Scale

-
38. My partner and I need to improve the way we settle our differences. (T; PSC)
40. My partner doesn't take me seriously enough sometimes. (T; AFC)
46. When we argue, my partner and I often seem to go over and over the same old things. (T; PSC)
49. My partner's feelings are too easily hurt. (F; PSC)*
75. When arguing, we manage quite well to restrict our focus to the important issues. (F; PSC)
77. Sometimes my partner just can't understand the way I feel. (T; AFC)
79. My partner has no difficulty accepting criticism. (F; PSC)
83. My partner sometimes seems intent upon changing some aspect of my personality. (T; PSC)
91. Our arguments frequently end up with one of us feeling hurt or crying. (T; PSC)
124. My partner often fails to understand my point of view on things. (T; PSC)
-

Note. Item numbers reflect the number of the item in the MSI-R item booklet. Information in parentheses indicates the scoring direction and profile scale membership. AFC = Affective Communication; PSC = Problem-Solving Communication

*This item was subsequently eliminated from the revised DHR factor scale, as explained in text.

Table 3

Goodness of Fit Indices for One- and Two-Factor Models

Factors	Index									
	χ^2	df	p	GFI	AGFI	BBI	TLI	CFI	CN	RMSEA
One (20 items)	625.85	170	<.01	.98	.97	.93	.94	.95	369.62	.05
Two (20 items)	484.87	169	<.01	.98	.98	.94	.96	.96	474.32	.04
Two (19 items)	395.81	151	<.01	.99	.98	.95	.96	.97	525.87	.04

Note: GFI = Goodness of Fit Index; AGFI = Adjusted Goodness of Fit Index; BBI = Bentler-Bonett Index; TLI = Tucker Lewis Index; CFI = Comparative Fit Index; CN = Critical N; RMSEA = Root Mean Square Error of Approximation. Improved fit is indicated by increases in the fit indices and by decreases in RMSEA.

Table 4

Differences in Chi-Square Comparing One- and Two- Factor Models

Factors	$\Delta\chi^2$	Δdf	p
One (20 items) – Two (20 items)	140.98	1	<.01
Two (20 items) – Two (19 items)	89.06	18	<.01

Table 5

Comparing models for Men and Women

Model	Hypothesis	χ^2	df	GFI	NFI	TLI	CFI	RMSEA	$\Delta\chi^2$	Δdf	p
1	Equal covariance matrices	258.81	190	.99	.99	1.00	1.00	.03			
2	Equal number of factors	746.97	302	.98	.98	.98	.99	.05			
3	Equal factor structure Model 3-2 difference (LX invariant)	850.09	321	.98	.97	.98	.98	.06	103.12	19	<.01
4	Equal factor correlations Model 4-3 difference (LX + PH invariant)	850.09	340	.98	.97	.98	.98	.05	0	19	<i>ns</i>
5	Equal error matrices Model 5-4 difference (LX, PH, and TD invariant)	854.58	341	.98	.97	.98	.98	.05	4.49	1	.03

Table 6

Coordinates of the Receiver Operating Characteristic Curve for Disaffection and Disharmony in the U.S. Standardization Sample and the Bryan/College Station Clinic Sample

MSI Scale	Positive If \geq (a)	Sensitivity	1-Specificity
DAF	-1.000	1.000	1.000
	.500	.870	.438
	1.500	.800	.277
	2.500	.580	.189
	3.500	.470	.127
	4.500	.420	.083
	5.500	.350	.061
	6.500	.280	.042
	7.500	.180	.026
	8.500	.090	.014
	9.500	.040	.005
	11.000	.000	.000
DHR	-1.000	1.000	1.000
	.500	.990	.888
	1.500	.980	.772
	2.500	.970	.639
	3.500	.950	.517
	4.500	.920	.387
	5.500	.860	.289
	6.500	.720	.200
	7.500	.520	.114
	8.500	.300	.053
	10.000	.000	.000

Note: The test result variable(s): DAF, DHR has at least one tie between the positive actual state group and the negative actual state group.

(a) The smallest cutoff value is the minimum observed test value minus 1, and the largest cutoff value is the maximum observed test value plus 1. All the other cutoff values are the averages of two consecutive ordered test values.

Table 7

Coordinates of the Receiver Operating Characteristic Curve for Disaffection and Disharmony in the Detroit Validation Studies

MSI Scale	Positive If \geq (a)	Sensitivity	1-Specificity
DAF	-1.000	1.000	1.000
	.500	.950	.350
	1.500	.830	.160
	2.500	.760	.130
	3.500	.670	.070
	4.500	.570	.050
	5.500	.480	.040
	6.500	.320	.030
	7.500	.200	.020
	8.500	.090	.020
	9.500	.040	.010
	11.000	.000	.000
DHR	-1.000	1.000	1.000
	.500	1.000	.890
	1.500	1.000	.790
	2.500	.990	.590
	3.500	.970	.470
	4.500	.970	.340
	5.500	.920	.270
	6.500	.790	.200
	7.500	.670	.100
	8.500	.320	.060
	10.000	.000	.000

Note: The test result variable(s): DAF, DHR has at least one tie between the positive actual state group and the negative actual state group.

(a) The smallest cutoff value is the minimum observed test value minus 1, and the largest cutoff value is the maximum observed test value plus 1. All the other cutoff values are the averages of two consecutive ordered observed test values.

Table 8

Internal Consistency Coefficients for the Disaffection and Disharmony Subscales of the Marital Satisfaction Inventory-Revised in the U.S. Standardization Sample

MSI-R Scale Correlations	Alpha Coefficients	Mean Inter-item
DAF	.84	.35
DHR	.80	.31

Note: DAF = Disaffection; DHR = Disharmony. Sample included 1020 community couples and 50 clinic couples.

Table 9

Test-Retest Reliability for the Disaffection and Disharmony Subscales of the Marital Satisfaction Inventory and the Marital Satisfaction Inventory-Revised in the North Carolina and Older Bryan/College Station Samples

MSI-R Scale	Correlation Coefficient (NC)	Correlation Coefficient (B/CS)	Correlation Coefficient* (B/CS)
DAF	.85	.50	.75
DHR	.83	.83	.84

Note: *Adjusted coefficients are without the 60 cases meeting criteria for exclusion.

Table 10

Marital Satisfaction Inventory-Revised Scale Means and Standard Deviations for the U.S. Standardization Sample and Bryan/College Station Clinic Samples by Gender

Scale	Community					Clinic						
	Men		Women			Men		Women				
			Combined					Combined				
	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD		
DAF	1.09	1.76	1.43	2.29	1.26	2.05	3.72	3.07	4.44	2.97	4.08	3.03
DHR	3.74	2.61	3.89	2.68	3.86	2.65	7.10	1.81	7.32	1.93	7.21	1.87

Note: DAF = Disaffection; DHR = Disharmony

Table 11

Correlations of Disaffection and Disharmony with the Bryan/College Station Emotion Regulation Study Measures

Measure	DAF	DHR
ERS Self-Total Emotion Regulation Score	-.260	-.354
ERS Total Report of Partner's Emotion Regulation	-.236	-.476
RCS Total Negativity and Conflict Problems	.508	.764
AAQ Total of Avoidance and Ambivalence	.271	.380
PAIR Emotional Intimacy Subscale	-.569	-.696
IRI Report of Own Empathy	-.463	-.495
IRI Report of Partner's Empathy	-.450	-.601
Overall Report of Positivity; Speaker Hurt by Someone Else	-.359	-.274
Overall Report of Positivity; Speaker Hurt by Partner	-.437	-.334
Overall Report of Positivity; Listener Hurt by Someone Else	-.333	-.272
Overall Report of Positivity; Listener Hurt by Partner	-.422	-.344

Note: All listed correlations were significant at $p < .001$.

Table 12

Exploratory Factor Analysis: Results of the Pattern and Structure Matrices for the Bryan/College Station Emotion Regulation Sample

Scale	Pattern		Structure	
	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 1	Factor 2
ERS Self-Total Emotion Regulation Score	.656	-.108	.603	.214
ERS Total Report of Partner's Emotion Regulation	.706	-.127	.644	.219
RCS Total Negativity and Conflict Problems	-.903	-.013	-.909	-.455
AAQ Total of Avoidance and Ambivalence	-.476	-.131	-.540	-.364
PAIR Emotional Intimacy Subscale	.708	.230	.821	.577
IRI Report of Own Empathy	.498	.322	.655	.565
IRI Report of Partner's Empathy	.608	.247	.729	.545
Overall Positivity as Speaker	-.029	.940	.432	.926
Overall Positivity as Listener	.014	.904	.457	.911
MSI Disaffection Raw Score	-.361	-.440	-.577	-.617
MSI Disharmony Raw Score	-.873	.041	-.853	-.387

Table 13

External Correlates of Disaffection and Disharmony Factor Scales from the Detroit Validation Studies

Descriptor	DAF	DHR
Describes marriage in unrealistically positive terms	-.28	-.42
Shows anger toward the mate	.56	.54
Dissatisfied with the marriage	.68	.69
Reports a long history of marital problems	.63	.64
Pessimistic about the future of the marriage	.61	.44
Considering separation or divorce	.58	.39
Invested in "saving" the marriage	-.50	-.39
Desires marital counseling	.54	.63
Desires individual therapy for self	.29	
Believes spouse is uncommitted to the marriage	.43	.29
Feels spouse doesn't show enough affection	.52	.45
Feels emotionally distant from spouse	.58	.50
Reluctant to reveal own feelings to spouse	.35	
Feels spouse is unsympathetic	.56	.49
Feels spouse is too critical	.53	.46
Constant disagreement and arguing	.54	.59
Inability to resolve minor differences	.55	.56

Table 13 Continued

Descriptor	DAF	DHR
Believes spouse is unwilling to compromise	.51	.46
Feels spouse is too sensitive to criticism	.38	.41
Doesn't enjoy time with spouse	.50	.37
Believes spouse doesn't enjoy time together	.54	.40
Lack of common interests	.66	.50
Lack of common friends	.67	.46
Spousal conflict over religion or morals	.29	.22
Major financial difficulties	.35	.27
Arguments with spouse over money	.35	.43
Describes spouse as a poor money manager	.28	.26
Describes unhappy childhood	.27	
Eager to leave home before marriage	.36	.28
Parents' marriage filled with discord	.30	.27
Lack of affection among parents, siblings		.33
Spousal conflict over parental, marital roles	.51	.37
Interference from parents-in-law		.25
Rejects view of "male dominance" in home		-.23
Doesn't engage in activities with children	.22	
Complains spouse doesn't share in childrearing	.32	.25

Table 13 Continued

Descriptor	DAF	DHR
Self abuse of alcohol or other substances		.18
Own children are inconsiderate		.25
Marriage major source of gratification	-.27	-.40
Finances are significant concern	.45	.49
Much satisfaction with leisure time		-.33
Excellent problem-solving skills		-.41
Some differences on financial priorities	.53	.43
Nearly perfect agreement regarding finances	-.28	-.43
Children not as satisfying as hoped	.36	.46

Table 14

External Correlates of Disaffection and Disharmony Factor Scales from the Western Psychological Services Validity Study

Descriptor	DAF	DHR
Describes self as understanding	-.132	-.138
Describes spouse as understanding	-.449	-.362
Describes self as a good friend	-.309	-.186
Describes spouse as a good friend	-.474	-.317
Describes self as sexually uncaring	.125	.095
Describes spouse as sexually uncaring	.270	.157
Describes self as stubborn		.217
Describes spouse as stubborn	.221	.342
Describes self as fair	-.149	
Describes spouse as fair	-.362	-.334
Describes self as a good provider	-.106	
Describes spouse as a good provider	-.194	
Describes self as too dependent		.136
Describes spouse as too dependent	.178	
Describes spouse as physically abusive	.159	.144
Describes self as uninvolved in the marriage	.286	
Describes spouse as uninvolved in the marriage	.434	.238

Table 14 Continued

Descriptor	DAF	DHR
Describes self as loving	-.309	-.161
Describes spouse as loving	-.495	-.246
Describes self as argumentative		.173
Describes spouse as argumentative	.232	.372
Describes self as tender	-.139	
Describes spouse as tender	-.436	-.241
Describes spouse as a good manager of finances	-.122	-.106
Describes self as fun to be with	-.240	
Describes spouse as fun to be with	-.487	-.246
Describes self as hot-tempered		.124
Describes spouse as hot-tempered		.276
Describes spouse as a good parent	-.214	-.170
Describes self as verbally abusive		.261
Describes spouse as verbally abusive	.228	.377
Describes self as confiding	-.202	-.173
Describes spouse as confiding	-.368	-.300
Describes spouse as insensitive	.437	.334
Describes self as secretive	.189	.183
Describes spouse as secretive	.274	.274

Table 14 Continued

Descriptor	DAF	DHR
Describes self as sexually exciting	-.209	-.127
Describes spouse as sexually exciting	-.344	-.145
Describes self as too harsh/lenient with children		.130
Describes spouse as too harsh/lenient with children	.168	.203
Describes self as nagging	.123	.102
Describes spouse as nagging	.157	.310
Describes spouse as flexible in parental roles	-.247	-.241
Describes self as uninterested in sex	.156	.112
Describes spouse as uninterested in sex	.232	
Describes self as hurtful, mean	.117	.104
Describes spouse as hurtful, mean	.329	.298
Describes spouse as generous	-.248	-.224
Describes self as overly sensitive to criticism		.120
Describes spouse as overly sensitive to criticism		.272
Describes spouse as unaffectionate towards children	.273	.189
Describes self as trusting	-.210	-.146
Describes spouse as trusting	-.304	-.312
Describes self as unsympathetic	.120	
Describes spouse as unsympathetic	.369	.331

Table 14 Continued

Descriptor	DAF	DHR
Describes spouse as sharing fully in childrearing	-.257	-.204
Describes spouse as overly critical	.248	.372
Describes spouse as preoccupied with sex		.165
Describes self as supportive	-.261	-.156
Describes spouse as supportive	-.494	-.385
Describes spouse as loose with money		.148
Describes spouse as rejecting of traditional marital roles		.184
Describes self as “doesn’t talk”		.138
Describes spouse as “doesn’t talk”	.337	.236
Describes self as sexually satisfying	-.250	
Describes spouse as sexually satisfying	-.336	
Describes self as emotionally disturbed	.189	.106
Describes spouse as emotionally disturbed	.287	.207
Describes self as sexually unfaithful	.172	
Describes spouse as sexually unfaithful	.188	.125
Describes self as withdrawn, a loner		.177
Describes spouse as withdrawn, a loner	.293	.202
Lack of understanding from spouse	.532	.566
Relationships with own parents and family of origin	.140	.147

Table 14 Continued

Descriptor	DAF	DHR
Money management problems	.256	.258
Lack of love and affection from spouse	.597	.344
Insufficient time together	.272	
Certain things too upsetting to be discussed	.334	.327
Division of household responsibilities between spouses	.332	.295
Relationships with in-laws	.159	.205
Inability to resolve differences	.589	.588
Lack of common interests	.519	.285
Quality of sexual relationship	.367	.154
Disagreement with spouse about childrearing	.220	.302
Not enough money	.192	.168
Constant disagreement and arguing	.512	.521
Division of childcare responsibilities between spouses	.303	.255
Frequency of sexual intercourse	.357	.178
Difference financial priorities (how to spend money)	.366	.312
History of marital problems	.378	.356
Marriage is satisfying	-.714	-.334
Future of Marriage is Uncertain	.516	.247
Marriage is better than average	-.634	-.334

Table 14 Continued

Descriptor	DAF	DHR
Marriage is disappointing	.606	.338
Marriage likely to end in divorce	.517	.212
Marriage is happy	-.700	-.422
Marriage has serious difficulties	.564	.317
Marriage made in heaven	-.261	-.204
Marriage is fulfilling	-.643	-.362
Marriage is not worth the effort	.303	.132
Marriage is nearly perfect	-.374	-.329
Marriage is worse than average	.588	.273
Likely future of problems	.441	.242
Likelihood of divorce	.576	.273
Clinician reports history of marital problems	.316	.371
Clinician rates husband as dissatisfied with AFC	.334	.224
Clinician rates wife as dissatisfied with AFC	.256	.295
Clinician rates husband as dissatisfied with PSC	.301	.339
Clinician rates wife as dissatisfied with PSC	.268	.358
Clinician rates husband as dissatisfied with TTO	.208	.156
Clinician rates wife as dissatisfied with TTO	.225	.184
Clinician rates husband as dissatisfied with FIN		.163

Table 14 Continued

Descriptor	DAF	DHR
Clinician rates wife as dissatisfied with FIN	.157	.184
Clinician rates husband as dissatisfied with SEX	.330	.151
Clinician rates wife as dissatisfied with SEX	.289	.124
Clinician rates husband as dissatisfied with ROR	.150	.206
Clinician rates wife as dissatisfied with ROR	.174	.161
Clinician rates husband as dissatisfied with FAM	.100	
Clinician rates husband as dissatisfied with GDS	.424	.279
Clinician rates wife as dissatisfied with GDS	.393	.316
Clinician rates husband as dissatisfied with CCR		.192
Clinician rates wife as dissatisfied with CCR		.172
Clinician rates husband as lacking commitment to marriage	.337	.173
Clinician rates wife as lacking commitment to marriage	.318	.176
Clinician rates husband as lacking commitment to treatment		.113
Clinician rates wife as lacking commitment to treatment	.187	.111
Clinician rates wife as individually disturbed		.187
Clinician rates likely future of problems	.334	.228
Clinician rate likelihood of divorce	.384	.151

Table 15

Crosstabulations of External Correlates of Disaffection Factor Scale from Detroit Validation Studies

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Describes marriage in unrealistically positive terms			
Absent	69.3	91.5	92.3
Moderate presence	27.7	8.5	7.7
Severe presence	3.0	0.0	0.0
Total presence to any degree	30.7	8.5	7.7
Shows anger toward the mate			
Absent	84.2	55.3	25.0
Moderate presence	13.9	29.8	46.2
Severe presence	2.0	14.9	28.8
Total presence to any degree	15.9	44.7	75.0
Dissatisfied with the marriage			
Absent	69.3	17.0	3.8
Moderate presence	27.7	44.7	42.3
Severe presence	3.0	38.3	53.8
Total presence to any degree	30.7	83.0	96.1
Reports long history of marital problems			
Absent	64.4	21.3	7.7
Moderate presence	27.7	29.8	23.1
Severe presence	7.9	48.9	69.2
Total presence to any degree	35.6	78.7	92.3
Pessimistic about future of marriage			
Absent	91.1	59.6	30.8
Moderate presence	8.9	34.0	50.0
Severe presence	0.0	6.4	19.2
Total presence to any degree	8.9	40.4	69.2

Table 15 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Considering separation or divorce			
Absent	94.1	59.6	38.5
Moderate presence	5.9	34.0	40.4
Severe presence	0.0	6.4	21.2
Total presence to any degree	5.9	40.4	61.6
Invested in “saving” the marriage			
Absent	0.0	2.1	5.8
Moderate presence	6.9	46.8	53.8
Severe presence	93.1	51.1	40.4
Total presence to any degree	100.0	97.9	94.2
Desires marital counseling			
Absent	84.2	25.5	11.5
Moderate presence	5.9	23.4	48.1
Severe presence	9.9	51.1	40.4
Total presence to any degree	15.8	74.5	88.5
Desires individual therapy for self			
Absent	98.0	83.0	76.9
Moderate presence	2.0	12.8	13.5
Severe presence	0.0	4.3	9.6
Total presence to any degree	2.0	17.1	23.1
Believes spouse is uncommitted to marriage			
Absent	99.0	80.9	63.5
Moderate presence	1.0	14.9	28.8
Severe presence	0.0	4.3	7.7
Total presence to any degree	1.0	19.2	36.5
Feels spouse doesn’t show enough affection			
Absent	93.1	48.9	38.5
Moderate presence	6.9	31.9	34.6
Severe presence	0.0	19.1	26.9
Total presence to any degree	6.9	51.0	61.5

Table 15 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Feels emotionally distant from spouse			
Absent	84.2	36.2	25.0
Moderate presence	15.8	38.3	42.3
Severe presence	0.0	25.5	32.7
Total presence to any degree	15.8	63.8	75.0
Reluctant to reveal own feelings to spouse			
Absent	71.3	44.7	36.5
Moderate presence	23.8	31.9	28.8
Severe presence	5.0	23.4	34.6
Total presence to any degree	28.8	55.3	63.4
Feels spouse is unsympathetic			
Absent	89.1	57.4	34.6
Moderate presence	10.9	31.9	34.6
Severe presence	0.0	10.6	30.8
Total presence to any degree	10.9	42.5	65.4
Feels spouse is too critical			
Absent	91.1	61.7	36.5
Moderate presence	6.9	23.4	36.5
Severe presence	2.0	14.9	26.9
Total presence to any degree	8.9	38.3	63.4
Constant disagreement and arguing			
Absent	62.4	27.7	9.6
Moderate presence	18.8	40.4	21.2
Severe presence	18.8	31.9	69.2
Total presence to any degree	37.6	72.3	90.4
Inability to resolve minor differences			
Absent	69.3	40.4	13.5
Moderate presence	15.8	27.7	19.2
Severe presence	14.9	31.9	67.3
Total presence to any degree	30.7	59.6	86.5

Table 15 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Believes spouse is unwilling to compromise			
Absent	86.1	48.9	36.5
Moderate presence	9.9	31.9	32.7
Severe presence	4.0	19.1	30.8
Total presence to any degree	13.9	51.0	63.5
Feels spouse is too sensitive to criticism			
Absent	93.1	70.2	59.6
Moderate presence	5.9	21.3	23.1
Severe presence	1.0	8.5	17.3
Total presence to any degree	6.9	29.8	40.4
Doesn't enjoy time with spouse			
Absent	95.0	78.7	50.0
Moderate presence	5.0	17.0	32.7
Severe presence	0.0	4.3	17.3
Total presence to any degree	5.0	21.3	50.0
Believes spouse doesn't enjoy time together			
Absent	97.0	63.8	48.1
Moderate presence	3.0	29.8	25.0
Severe presence	0.0	6.4	26.9
Total presence to any degree	3.0	36.2	51.9
Lack of common interests			
Absent	86.1	40.4	11.5
Moderate presence	10.9	27.7	36.5
Severe presence	3.0	31.9	51.9
Total presence to any degree	13.9	59.6	88.4
Lack of common friends			
Absent	93.1	53.2	21.2
Moderate presence	5.0	29.8	28.8
Severe presence	2.0	17.0	50.0
Total presence to any degree	7.0	46.8	78.8

Table 15 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Spousal conflict over religion, morals			
Absent	84.2	76.6	59.6
Moderate presence	14.9	19.1	21.2
Severe presence	1.0	4.3	19.2
Total presence to any degree	15.9	23.4	40.4
Major financial difficulties			
Absent	82.2	70.2	42.3
Moderate presence	13.9	14.9	34.6
Severe presence	4.0	14.9	23.1
Total presence to any degree	17.9	29.8	57.7
Arguments with spouse over money			
Absent	71.3	44.7	34.6
Moderate presence	19.8	40.4	32.7
Severe presence	8.9	14.9	32.7
Total presence to any degree	28.7	55.3	65.4
Describes spouse as a poor money manager			
Absent	90.1	66.0	71.2
Moderate presence	7.9	29.8	7.7
Severe presence	2.0	4.3	21.2
Total presence to any degree	9.9	34.1	28.9
Describes unhappy childhood			
Absent	60.4	40.4	40.4
Moderate presence	29.7	36.2	23.1
Severe presence	9.9	23.4	36.5
Total presence to any degree	39.6	59.6	59.6
Eager to leave home before marriage			
Absent	93.1	63.8	61.5
Moderate presence	2.0	23.4	7.7
Severe presence	5.0	12.8	30.8
Total presence to any degree	7.0	36.2	38.5

Table 15 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Parents' marriage filled with discord			
Absent	63.4	42.6	36.5
Moderate presence	22.8	29.8	21.2
Severe presence	13.9	27.7	42.3
Total presence to any degree	36.7	57.5	63.5
Spousal conflict over parental, marital roles			
Absent	88.1	70.2	36.5
Moderate presence	8.9	21.3	30.8
Severe presence	3.0	8.5	32.7
Total presence to any degree	11.9	29.8	63.5
Doesn't engage in activities with children			
Absent	96.0	86.5	71.4
Moderate presence	2.7	13.5	16.7
Severe presence	1.3	0.0	11.9
Total presence to any degree	4.0	13.5	28.6
Complains spouse doesn't share in childrearing			
Absent	88.0	83.8	64.3
Moderate presence	9.3	10.8	16.7
Severe presence	2.7	5.4	19.0
Total presence to any degree	12.0	16.2	35.7
Marriage is a major source of gratification			
Absent	54.8	83.3	100.0
Moderate presence	40.5	16.7	0.0
Severe presence	4.8	0.0	0.0
Total presence to any degree	45.3	16.7	0.0
Finances are a significant concern			
Absent	73.8	41.7	25.0
Moderate presence	19.0	33.3	0.0
Severe presence	7.1	25.0	75.0
Total presence to any degree	26.1	58.3	75.0

Table 15 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Some differences on financial priorities			
Absent	82.1	50.0	25.0
Moderate presence	17.9	50.0	25.0
Severe presence	0.0	0.0	50.0
Total presence to any degree	17.9	50.0	75.0
Nearly perfect agreement regarding finances			
Absent	32.1	66.7	75.0
Moderate presence	51.2	33.3	25.0
Severe presence	16.7	0.0	0.0
Total presence to any degree	67.9	33.3	25.0
Children are not as satisfying as hoped			
Absent	98.4	50.0	75.0
Moderate presence	1.6	50.0	25.0
Total presence to any degree	1.6	50.0	25.0

Table 16

Crosstabulations of External Correlates of Disharmony Factor Scale from Detroit Validation Studies

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Describes marriage in unrealistically positive terms			
Absent	28.6	76.7	91.6
Moderate presence	66.7	20.0	8.4
Severe presence	4.8	3.3	0.0
Total presence to any degree	71.5	23.3	8.4
Shows anger toward the mate			
Absent	100.0	90.0	41.2
Moderate presence	0.0	8.3	39.5
Severe presence	0.0	1.7	19.3
Total presence to any degree	0.0	10.0	58.8
Dissatisfied with the marriage			
Absent	100.0	76.7	10.9
Moderate presence	0.0	21.7	48.7
Severe presence	0.0	1.7	40.3
Total presence to any degree	0.0	23.4	89.0
Reports long history of marital problems			
Absent	100.0	63.3	16.8
Moderate presence	0.0	28.3	31.1
Severe presence	0.0	8.3	52.1
Total presence to any degree	0.0	36.6	83.2
Pessimistic about future of marriage			
Absent	100.0	90.0	51.3
Moderate presence	0.0	8.3	38.7
Severe presence	0.0	1.7	10.1
Total presence to any degree	0.0	10.0	48.8

Table 16 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Considering separation or divorce			
Absent	100.0	91.7	56.3
Moderate presence	0.0	6.7	32.8
Severe presence	0.0	1.7	10.9
Total presence to any degree	0.0	8.4	43.7
Invested in “saving” the marriage			
Absent	0.0	1.7	2.5
Moderate presence	0.0	8.3	43.7
Severe presence	100.0	90.0	53.8
Total presence to any degree	100.0	98.3	97.5
Desires marital counseling			
Absent	100.0	88.3	24.4
Moderate presence	0.0	6.7	31.9
Severe presence	0.0	5.0	43.7
Total presence to any degree	0.0	11.7	75.6
Believes spouse is uncommitted to marriage			
Absent	100.0	96.7	77.3
Moderate presence	0.0	1.7	18.5
Severe presence	0.0	1.7	4.2
Total presence to any degree	0.0	3.4	22.7
Feels spouse doesn’t show enough affection			
Absent	100.0	90.0	52.1
Moderate presence	0.0	8.3	29.4
Severe presence	0.0	1.7	18.5
Total presence to any degree	0.0	10.0	47.9
Feels emotionally distant from spouse			
Absent	100.0	81.7	37.8
Moderate presence	0.0	16.7	38.7
Severe presence	0.0	1.7	23.5
Total presence to any degree	0.0	18.4	62.2

Table 16 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Feels spouse is unsympathetic			
Absent	100.0	91.7	49.6
Moderate presence	0.0	8.3	32.8
Severe presence	0.0	0.0	17.6
Total presence to any degree	0.0	8.3	50.4
Feels spouse is too critical			
Absent	100.0	93.3	52.9
Moderate presence	0.0	5.0	28.6
Severe presence	0.0	1.7	18.5
Total presence to any degree	0.0	6.7	47.1
Constant disagreement and arguing			
Absent	100.0	63.3	18.5
Moderate presence	0.0	21.7	30.3
Severe presence	0.0	15.0	51.3
Total presence to any degree	0.0	36.7	81.6
Inability to resolve minor differences			
Absent	100.0	75.0	25.2
Moderate presence	0.0	10.0	27.7
Severe presence	0.0	15.0	47.1
Total presence to any degree	0.0	25.0	74.8
Believes spouse is unwilling to compromise			
Absent	100.0	86.7	47.1
Moderate presence	0.0	8.3	31.1
Severe presence	0.0	5.0	21.8
Total presence to any degree	0.0	13.3	52.9
Feels spouse is too sensitive to criticism			
Absent	100.0	96.7	66.4
Moderate presence	0.0	3.3	21.8
Severe presence	0.0	0.0	11.8
Total presence to any degree	0.0	3.3	33.6

Table 16 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Doesn't enjoy time with spouse			
Absent	100.0	98.3	66.4
Moderate presence	0.0	1.7	24.4
Severe presence	0.0	0.0	9.2
Total presence to any degree	0.0	1.7	33.6
Believes spouse doesn't enjoy time together			
Absent	100.0	95.0	63.0
Moderate presence	0.0	3.3	23.5
Severe presence	0.0	1.7	13.4
Total presence to any degree	0.0	5.0	36.9
Lack of common interests			
Absent	81.0	88.3	35.3
Moderate presence	19.0	5.0	30.3
Severe presence	0.0	6.7	34.5
Total presence to any degree	19.0	11.7	64.8
Lack of common friends			
Absent	100.0	86.7	47.9
Moderate presence	0.0	10.0	23.5
Severe presence	0.0	3.3	28.6
Total presence to any degree	0.0	13.3	52.1
Spousal conflict over religion, morals			
Absent	95.2	81.7	69.7
Moderate presence	4.8	18.3	19.3
Severe presence	0.0	0.0	10.9
Total presence to any degree	4.8	18.3	30.2
Major financial difficulties			
Absent	100.0	76.7	59.7
Moderate presence	0.0	20.0	22.7
Severe presence	0.0	3.3	17.6
Total presence to any degree	0.0	23.3	40.3

Table 16 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Arguments with spouse over money			
Absent	90.5	76.7	38.7
Moderate presence	9.5	20.0	35.3
Severe presence	0.0	3.3	26.1
Total presence to any degree	9.5	23.3	61.4
Describes spouse as a poor money manager			
Absent	95.2	90.0	71.4
Moderate presence	4.8	8.3	16.8
Severe presence	0.0	1.7	11.8
Total presence to any degree	4.8	10.0	28.6
Eager to leave home before marriage			
Absent	100.0	90.0	68.1
Moderate presence	0.0	5.0	11.8
Severe presence	0.0	5.0	20.2
Total presence to any degree	0.0	10.0	32.0
Lack of affection among parents, siblings			
Absent	85.7	66.7	41.2
Moderate presence	9.5	26.7	33.6
Severe presence	4.8	6.7	25.2
Total presence to any degree	14.3	33.4	58.8
Parents' marriage filled with discord			
Absent	85.7	58.3	42.0
Moderate presence	9.5	26.7	25.2
Severe presence	4.8	15.0	32.8
Total presence to any degree	14.3	41.7	58.0
Interference from parents-in-law			
Absent	100.0	93.3	74.8
Moderate presence	0.0	6.7	12.6
Severe presence	0.0	0.0	12.6
Total presence to any degree	0.0	6.7	25.2

Table 16 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Rejects view of “male dominance” in home			
Absent	9.5	23.3	32.8
Moderate presence	47.6	45.0	46.2
Severe presence	42.9	31.7	21.0
Total presence to any degree	90.5	76.7	67.2
Spousal conflict over parental, marital roles			
Absent	100.0	85.0	58.0
Moderate presence	0.0	10.0	24.4
Severe presence	0.0	5.0	17.6
Total presence to any degree	0.0	15.0	42.0
Self abuses alcohol, other substance			
Absent	100.0	90.0	81.5
Moderate presence	0.0	6.7	12.6
Severe presence	0.0	3.3	5.9
Total presence to any degree	0.0	10.0	18.5
Own children are inconsiderate			
Absent	100.0	96.1	82.6
Moderate presence	0.0	3.9	14.1
Severe presence	0.0	0.0	3.3
Total presence to any degree	0.0	3.9	17.4
Complains spouse doesn’t share in childrearing			
Absent	90.9	88.2	75.0
Moderate presence	9.1	7.8	14.1
Severe presence	0.0	3.9	10.9
Total presence to any degree	9.1	11.7	25.0
Marriage is a major source of gratification			
Absent	28.6	61.5	81.5
Moderate presence	57.1	36.5	18.5
Severe presence	14.3	1.9	0.0
Total presence to any degree	71.4	38.4	18.5

Table 16 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Much satisfaction with leisure time			
Absent	52.4	80.8	100.0
Moderate presence	38.1	19.2	0.0
Severe presence	9.5	0.0	0.0
Total presence to any degree	47.6	19.2	0.0
Excellent problem-solving skills			
Absent	47.6	78.8	100.0
Moderate presence	42.9	21.2	0.0
Severe presence	9.5	0.0	0.0
Total presence to any degree	52.4	21.2	0.0
Finances are a significant concern			
Absent	90.5	78.8	29.6
Moderate presence	9.5	17.3	33.3
Severe presence	0.0	3.8	37.0
Total presence to any degree	9.5	21.1	70.3
Some differences on financial priorities			
Absent	95.2	84.6	44.4
Moderate presence	4.8	15.4	48.1
Severe presence	0.0	0.0	7.4
Total presence to any degree	4.8	15.4	55.5
Nearly perfect agreement regarding finances			
Absent	19.0	26.9	74.1
Moderate presence	52.4	59.6	22.2
Severe presence	28.6	13.5	3.7
Total presence to any degree	81.0	73.1	25.9
Children are not as satisfying as hoped			
Absent	100.0	100.0	68.2
Moderate presence	0.0	0.0	31.8
Total presence to any degree	0.0	0.0	31.8

Table 17

Crosstabulations of External Correlates of Disaffection Factor Scale from Western Psychological Services Study

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Describes self as understanding			
False	6.9	11.3	15.6
True	93.1	88.7	84.4
Describes spouse as understanding			
False	8.8	23.2	53.3
True	91.2	76.8	46.7
Describes self as a good friend			
False	2.5	11.0	27.7
True	97.5	89.0	72.3
Describes spouse as a good friend			
False	4.4	15.1	47.1
True	95.6	84.9	52.9
Describes self as sexually uncaring			
False	93.8	85.6	83.8
True	6.3	14.4	16.2
Describes spouse as sexually uncaring			
False	92.5	77.5	65.6
True	7.5	22.5	34.4
Describes spouse as stubborn			
False	37.7	22.0	16.0
True	62.3	78.0	84.0
Describes self as fair			
False	2.5	5.5	12.3
True	97.5	94.5	87.7

Table 17 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Describes spouse as fair			
False	6.3	15.5	38.1
True	93.8	84.5	61.9
Describes self as a good provider			
False	9.0	12.4	16.1
True	91.0	87.6	83.9
Describes spouse as a good provider			
False	3.2	12.4	18.2
True	96.8	87.6	81.8
Describes spouse as too dependent			
False	88.1	78.7	72.5
True	11.9	21.3	27.5
Describes spouse as physically abusive			
False	98.1	95.5	89.0
True	1.9	4.5	11.0
Describes self as uninvolved in marriage			
False	96.9	91.0	72.7
True	3.1	9.0	27.3
Describes spouse as uninvolved in marriage			
False	96.9	87.4	60.7
True	3.1	12.6	39.3
Describes self as loving			
False	3.8	6.3	28.0
True	96.3	93.7	72.0
Describes spouse as loving			
False	3.1	9.0	45.8
True	96.9	91.0	54.2

Table 17 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Describes spouse as argumentative			
False	64.2	49.8	36.8
True	35.8	50.2	63.2
Describes self as tender			
False	14.6	20.3	29.7
True	85.4	79.7	70.3
Describes spouse as tender			
False	10.7	25.5	55.4
True	89.3	74.5	44.6
Describes spouse as good at finances			
False	31.2	35.6	42.7
True	68.8	64.4	57.3
Describes self as fun to be with			
False	6.3	16.4	30.6
True	93.7	83.6	69.4
Describes spouse as fun to be with			
False	5.7	18.1	53.3
True	94.3	81.9	46.7
Describes spouse as a good parent			
False	3.7	12.4	19.4
True	96.3	87.6	80.6
Describes spouse as verbally abusive			
False	77.4	61.6	49.0
True	22.6	38.4	51.0
Describes self as confiding			
False	20.8	36.0	44.4
True	79.2	64.0	55.6

Table 17 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Describes spouse as confiding			
False	23.3	56.1	69.5
True	76.7	43.9	30.5
Describes spouse as insensitive			
False	90.6	76.4	44.1
True	9.4	23.6	55.9
Describes self as secretive			
False	80.4	69.5	57.3
True	19.6	30.5	42.7
Describes spouse as secretive			
False	77.1	57.7	43.5
True	22.9	42.3	56.5
Describes self as sexually exciting			
False	22.0	28.9	45.1
True	78.0	71.1	54.9
Describes spouse as sexually exciting			
False	14.6	26.9	52.5
True	85.4	73.1	47.5
Describes spouse as too harsh/lenient with kids			
False	63.2	63.4	48.8
True	36.8	36.6	51.2
Describes self as nagging			
False	77.8	74.5	67.4
True	22.2	25.2	32.6
Describes spouse as nagging			
False	71.3	64.5	52.5
True	28.7	35.5	47.5

Table 17 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Describes spouse as flexible as parents			
False	12.7	34.6	39.3
True	87.3	65.4	60.7
Describes self as uninterested in sex			
False	90.4	89.1	78.5
True	9.6	10.9	21.5
Describes spouse as uninterested in sex			
False	90.6	73.9	63.5
True	9.4	26.1	36.5
Describes self as hurtful, mean			
False	91.8	89.6	83.6
True	8.2	10.4	16.4
Describes spouse as hurtful, mean			
False	93.0	85.1	63.4
True	7.0	14.9	36.6
Describes spouse as generous			
False	7.5	16.3	28.6
True	92.5	83.7	71.4
Describes spouse as unaffectionate to kids			
False	96.5	88.3	75.8
True	3.5	11.7	24.2
Describes self as trusting			
False	8.9	18.9	28.6
True	91.1	81.1	71.4
Describes spouse as trusting			
False	10.7	27.6	45.2
True	89.3	72.4	54.8

Table 17 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Describes self as unsympathetic			
False	93.7	89.1	85.5
True	6.3	10.9	14.5
Describes spouse as unsympathetic			
False	91.8	72.7	52.5
True	8.2	27.3	47.5
Describes spouse as helpful with childrearing			
False	20.1	26.9	43.5
True	79.9	73.1	56.5
Describes spouse as too critical			
False	71.5	58.7	42.4
True	28.5	41.3	57.6
Describes self as supportive			
False	2.5	11.4	23.4
True	97.5	88.6	76.6
Describes spouse as supportive			
False	7.6	24.9	58.1
True	92.4	75.1	41.9
Describes spouse as untraditional			
False	75.3	80.0	61.9
True	24.7	20.0	38.1
Describes spouse as “doesn’t talk”			
False	79.9	63.5	41.6
True	20.1	36.5	58.4
Describes self as sexually satisfying			
False	10.4	24.0	37.2
True	89.6	76.0	62.8

Table 17 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Describes spouse as sexually satisfying			
False	7.7	24.7	45.0
True	92.3	75.3	55.0
Describes self as emotionally disturbed			
False	91.0	83.9	74.4
True	9.0	16.1	25.6
Describes spouse as emotionally disturbed			
False	88.1	72.6	57.6
True	11.9	27.4	42.4
Describes self as sexually unfaithful			
False	89.9	91.8	78.7
True	10.1	8.2	21.3
Describes spouse as sexually unfaithful			
False	92.5	87.3	77.9
True	7.5	12.7	22.1
Describes spouse as withdrawn, loner			
False	86.8	73.3	55.9
True	13.2	26.7	44.1
Lack of understanding			
Absent	31.4	13.5	3.8
Small problem	42.9	27.5	14.9
Moderate problem	19.9	40.1	28.4
Major problem	5.8	18.9	52.9
Combined moderate or major problem	25.7	59.0	81.3
Problems in the family of origin			
Absent	50.3	49.1	41.1
Small problem	27.1	20.7	22.1
Moderate problem	15.5	14.9	20.5
Major problem	7.1	15.3	16.3
Combined moderate or major problem	22.6	30.2	36.8

Table 17 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Money management problems			
Absent	46.8	36.9	27.8
Small problem	29.7	28.4	21.7
Moderate problem	19.6	20.3	23.6
Major problem	3.8	14.4	27.0
Combined moderate or major problem	23.4	34.7	50.6
Lack of love/affection			
Absent	64.3	36.9	12.2
Small problem	27.4	25.2	12.6
Moderate problem	6.4	23.0	26.7
Major problem	1.9	14.9	48.5
Combined moderate or major problem	8.3	37.9	75.2
Lack of time together			
Absent	31.6	23.9	15.6
Small problem	36.7	19.4	16.8
Moderate problem	17.7	29.7	25.2
Major problem	13.9	27.0	42.4
Combined moderate or major problem	31.6	56.7	67.6
Can't discuss some things			
Absent	45.2	23.4	15.7
Small problem	31.2	27.5	19.5
Moderate problem	15.3	24.8	28.0
Major problem	8.3	24.3	36.8
Combined moderate or major problem	23.6	49.1	64.8
Division of spousal labor			
Absent	61.4	41.4	31.3
Small problem	25.3	33.8	26.3
Moderate problem	10.1	16.7	24.8
Major problem	3.2	8.1	17.6
Combined moderate or major problem	13.3	24.8	42.4

Table 17 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Relations with in-laws			
Absent	56.7	55.9	39.7
Small problem	26.8	23.4	32.4
Moderate problem	7.0	12.6	16.0
Major problem	9.6	8.1	11.8
Combined moderate or major problem	16.6	20.7	27.8
Can't resolve differences			
Absent	29.1	8.1	1.5
Small problem	43.0	26.6	6.1
Moderate problem	18.4	29.7	24.3
Major problem	9.5	35.6	68.1
Combined moderate or major problem	27.9	65.3	92.4
Lack of common interests			
Absent	46.2	31.4	9.5
Small problem	39.2	28.2	21.7
Moderate problem	11.4	27.7	36.5
Major problem	3.2	12.7	32.3
Combined moderate or major problem	14.6	40.4	68.8
Quality of sexual relations			
Absent	46.8	29.9	19.1
Small problem	33.5	25.8	17.6
Moderate problem	12.0	22.2	23.7
Major problem	7.6	22.2	39.7
Combined moderate or major problem	19.6	44.4	63.4
Differences in childrearing			
Absent	53.0	37.4	30.2
Small problem	24.2	34.2	30.2
Moderate problem	15.9	17.1	20.0
Major problem	6.8	11.2	19.5
Combined moderate or major problem	22.7	28.3	39.5

Table 17 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Not enough money			
Absent	51.3	42.8	33.1
Small problem	29.7	27.0	27.4
Moderate problem	13.3	13.5	19.0
Major problem	5.7	16.7	20.5
Combined moderate or major problem	19.0	30.2	39.5
Constant arguing			
Absent	55.7	28.4	12.2
Small problem	30.4	38.3	18.3
Moderate problem	10.8	19.8	30.8
Major problem	3.2	13.5	38.8
Combined moderate or major problem	14.0	33.3	69.6
Division of childcare responsibilities			
Absent	66.9	52.7	36.2
Small problem	22.6	28.0	30.4
Moderate problem	8.3	11.5	21.3
Major problem	2.3	7.7	12.1
Combined moderate or major problem	10.6	19.2	33.4
Frequency of intercourse			
Absent	34.2	24.0	14.9
Small problem	41.1	27.1	17.6
Moderate problem	13.9	23.1	24.4
Major problem	10.8	25.8	43.1
Combined moderate or major problem	24.7	48.9	67.5
Different financial priorities			
Absent	45.6	41.4	18.3
Small problems	39.9	27.0	26.0
Moderate problems	10.8	19.8	28.6
Major problems	3.8	11.7	27.1
Combined moderate or major problem	14.6	31.5	55.7

Table 17 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
History of marital problems			
Absent	20.4	8.3	2.7
Chronic minor	48.6	35.6	21.7
Chronic moderate	22.5	38.9	51.7
Chronic major	8.5	17.1	24.0
Combined chronic moderate and major	31.0	56.0	75.7
Marriage is satisfying			
False	2.5	37.0	88.8
True	97.5	63.0	11.2
Marriage has uncertain future			
False	75.9	41.0	13.3
True	24.1	59.0	86.7
Marriage is better than average			
False	12.7	37.6	85.8
True	87.3	62.4	14.2
Marriage is disappointing			
False	85.2	50.9	12.5
True	14.8	49.1	87.5
Marriage will end in divorce			
False	99.4	87.4	52.6
True	0.6	12.6	47.4
Marriage is happy			
False	11.5	44.9	94.7
True	88.5	55.1	5.3
Marriage has serious problems			
False	71.6	36.2	5.7
True	28.4	63.8	94.3

Table 17 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Marriage made in heaven			
False	81.8	91.9	99.6
True	18.2	8.1	0.4
Marriage is fulfilling			
False	15.5	50.7	93.1
True	84.5	49.3	6.9
Marriage is not worth the effort			
False	100.0	98.2	86.4
True	0.0	1.8	13.6
Marriage is nearly perfect			
False	66.9	92.3	98.5
True	33.1	7.7	1.5
Marriage is worse than average			
False	97.5	84.6	40.9
True	2.5	15.4	59.1
Likely future of problems			
Most will be solved	51.6	30.2	12.5
Some will be solved	47.1	65.8	65.0
Most will remain	1.3	3.6	17.5
Most will worsen	0.0	0.5	4.9
Combined remain and worsen	1.3	4.1	22.4
Likelihood of divorce			
Quite unlikely	71.5	36.0	15.2
Small possibility	25.3	36.5	25.1
Moderate possibility	3.2	25.7	40.3
Almost certain	0.0	1.8	19.4
Combined possibility and certain	3.2	27.5	59.7

Table 17 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Clinician report: History of marital problems			
Recent onset	22.8	5.8	3.4
Chronic minor	32.3	26.9	16.3
Chronic moderate	41.8	55.6	65.4
Chronic major	3.2	11.7	14.8
Combined moderate and major	45.0	67.3	80.2
Clinician rates husband dissatisfied with affection			
No real dissatisfaction	27.8	14.9	8.0
Minor dissatisfaction	43.0	39.2	21.8
Moderate dissatisfaction	22.8	28.8	40.5
Extensive dissatisfaction	6.3	17.1	29.8
Combined moderate and extensive	29.1	45.9	70.3
Clinician rates wife dissatisfied with affection			
No real dissatisfaction	15.2	6.3	5.3
Minor dissatisfaction	24.7	17.5	15.2
Moderate dissatisfaction	36.7	39.0	31.6
Extensive dissatisfaction	23.4	37.2	47.9
Combined moderate and extensive	60.1	76.2	79.5
Clinician rates husband as dissatisfied with problem solving communication			
No real dissatisfaction	13.9	4.1	1.1
Minor dissatisfaction	29.1	29.3	14.1
Moderate dissatisfaction	43.0	38.3	43.9
Extensive dissatisfaction	13.9	28.4	40.8
Combined moderate and extensive	56.9	66.7	84.7
Clinician rates wife as dissatisfied with problem solving communication			
No real dissatisfaction	11.4	1.3	0.4
Minor dissatisfaction	24.7	13.9	9.1
Moderate dissatisfaction	39.2	42.6	40.7
Extensive dissatisfaction	24.7	42.2	49.8
Combined moderate and extensive	63.9	84.8	90.5

Table 17 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Clinician rates husband as dissatisfied with time together			
No real dissatisfaction	30.4	21.6	12.2
Minor dissatisfaction	39.9	39.6	35.5
Moderate dissatisfaction	22.2	24.8	35.9
Extensive dissatisfaction	7.6	14.0	16.4
Combined moderate and extensive	29.8	38.8	52.3
Clinician rates wife as dissatisfied with time together			
No real dissatisfaction	19.0	9.0	5.3
Minor dissatisfaction	34.2	23.3	22.1
Moderate dissatisfaction	26.6	31.8	36.9
Extensive dissatisfaction	20.3	35.9	35.7
Combined moderate and extensive	46.9	67.7	72.6
Clinician rates wife as dissatisfied with finances			
No real dissatisfaction	38.6	39.0	28.4
Minor dissatisfaction	32.9	20.2	24.9
Moderate dissatisfaction	18.4	24.2	21.8
Extensive dissatisfaction	10.1	16.6	24.9
Combined moderate and extensive	28.5	40.8	46.7
Clinician rates husband as dissatisfied with sex			
Absent	1.3	0.0	0.0
No real dissatisfaction	37.8	27.5	12.2
Minor dissatisfaction	38.5	27.0	26.0
Moderate dissatisfaction	15.4	22.5	28.2
Extensive dissatisfaction	7.1	23.0	33.6
Combined moderate and extensive	22.5	45.5	61.8
Clinician rates wife as dissatisfied with sex			
Absent	1.3	0.0	0.0
No real dissatisfaction	36.5	24.2	10.3
Minor dissatisfaction	20.5	25.1	24.3
Moderate dissatisfaction	27.6	26.5	27.4
Extensive dissatisfaction	14.1	24.2	38.0
Combined moderate and extensive	41.7	50.7	65.4

Table 17 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Clinician rates husband as dissatisfied with role orientation			
No real dissatisfaction	58.9	50.5	39.3
Minor dissatisfaction	29.7	34.2	40.1
Moderate dissatisfaction	8.2	9.9	14.9
Extensive dissatisfaction	3.2	5.4	5.7
Combined moderate and extensive	11.4	15.3	20.6
Clinician rates wife as dissatisfied with role orientation			
No real dissatisfaction	36.7	32.3	21.3
Minor dissatisfaction	37.3	32.3	38.4
Moderate dissatisfaction	17.7	19.3	24.7
Extensive dissatisfaction	8.2	16.1	15.6
Combined moderate and extensive	25.9	35.4	40.3
Clinician rates husband as dissatisfied with family			
Absent	1.3	0.0	0.0
No real dissatisfaction	37.4	39.1	24.4
Minor dissatisfaction	32.9	28.8	35.0
Moderate dissatisfaction	15.5	20.9	24.0
Extensive dissatisfaction	11.6	11.2	16.5
Severe Dissatisfaction	1.3	0.0	0.0
Combined moderate, extensive, and severe	28.4	32.1	40.5
Clinician rates husband as dissatisfied with global distress			
No real dissatisfaction	18.6	9.6	3.1
Minor dissatisfaction	56.4	40.6	21.2
Moderate dissatisfaction	19.9	32.9	39.8
Extensive dissatisfaction	5.1	16.9	35.9
Combined moderate and extensive	25.0	49.8	75.7

Table 17 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Clinician rates wife as dissatisfied with global distress			
No real dissatisfaction	14.1	1.8	0.8
Minor dissatisfaction	29.5	18.6	11.2
Moderate dissatisfaction	43.6	48.6	38.8
Extensive dissatisfaction	12.8	30.9	49.2
Combined moderate and extensive	56.4	79.5	88.0
Clinician rates husband as lacking commitment to marriage			
No real problem	72.8	50.0	31.3
Limited problem	19.0	29.3	30.9
Moderate problem	6.3	11.3	21.8
Extensive problem	1.9	9.5	16.0
Combined moderate and extensive	8.2	20.8	37.8
Clinician rates wife as lacking commitment to marriage			
No real problem	72.2	48.0	33.1
Limited problem	17.7	30.0	31.6
Moderate problem	8.2	16.6	23.6
Extensive problem	1.9	5.4	11.8
Combined moderate and extensive	10.1	22.0	35.4
Clinician rates wife as lacking commitment to treatment			
No real problem	80.8	69.1	57.8
Limited problem	14.1	24.2	34.2
Moderate problem	4.5	5.4	7.2
Extensive problem	0.6	1.3	0.8
Combined moderate and extensive	5.1	6.7	8.0
Clinician rates likely future of problems			
Most be solved	33.3	10.8	8.4
Some be solved	62.2	75.8	61.6
Most will remain	4.5	9.4	25.9
Most will worsen	0.0	4.0	4.2
Combined remain and worsen	4.5	13.4	30.1

Table 17 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Clinician rates likelihood of divorce			
Quite unlikely	42.5	19.3	14.1
Small possibility	38.1	33.6	18.3
Moderate possibility	16.9	38.6	52.9
Almost certain	2.5	8.5	14.8
Combined moderate and almost certain	19.4	47.1	67.7

Table 18

Crosstabulations of External Correlates of Disharmony Factor Scale from Western Psychological Services Study

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Describes self as understanding			
False	0.0	5.1	13.6
True	100.0	94.9	86.4
Describes spouse as understanding			
False	6.3	3.0	38.1
True	93.8	97.0	61.9
Describes self as a good friend			
False	0.0	6.1	18.0
True	100.0	93.9	82.0
Describes spouse as a good friend			
False	0.0	6.0	29.9
True	100.0	94.0	70.1
Describes self as sexually uncaring			
False	93.8	92.0	85.7
True	6.3	8.0	14.3
Describes spouse as sexually uncaring			
False	93.8	88.0	73.7
True	6.3	12.0	26.3
Describes self as stubborn			
False	68.8	45.0	21.4
True	31.3	55.0	78.6
Describes spouse as stubborn			
False	68.8	46.5	17.7
True	31.3	53.5	82.3

Table 18 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Describes spouse as fair			
False	0.0	3.0	26.8
True	100.0	97.0	73.2
Describes self as too dependent			
False	93.8	95.0	84.1
True	6.3	5.0	15.9
Describes spouse as physically abusive			
False	100.0	98.0	92.5
True	0.0	2.0	7.5
Describes spouse as uninvolved in marriage			
False	93.8	94.0	75.6
True	6.3	6.0	24.4
Describes self as loving			
False	0.0	6.0	16.5
True	100.0	94.0	83.5
Describes spouse as loving			
False	6.3	6.0	26.1
True	93.8	94.0	73.9
Describes self as argumentative			
False	75.0	70.7	47.6
True	25.0	29.3	52.4
Describes spouse as argumentative			
False	93.8	77.8	41.0
True	6.3	22.2	59.0
Describes spouse as tender			
False	18.8	15.3	37.9
True	81.3	84.7	62.1

Table 18 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Describes spouse as good at finances			
False	18.8	32.7	38.9
True	81.3	67.3	61.1
Describes spouse as fun to be with			
False	0.0	12.2	33.6
True	100.0	87.8	66.4
Describes self as hot-tempered			
False	81.3	64.6	49.9
True	18.8	35.4	50.1
Describes spouse as hot-tempered			
False	100.0	68.7	45.2
True	0.0	31.1	54.8
Describes spouse as a good parent			
False	0.0	6.1	14.5
True	100.0	93.9	85.5
Describes self as verbally abusive			
False	93.8	90.9	65.2
True	6.3	9.1	34.8
Describes spouse as verbally abusive			
False	100.0	88.9	53.8
True	0.0	11.1	46.2
Describes self as confiding			
False	12.5	18.4	39.5
True	87.5	81.6	60.5
Describes spouse as confiding			
False	18.8	24.7	59.7
True	81.3	75.3	40.3

Table 18 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Describes spouse as insensitive			
False	100.0	90.8	61.2
True	0.0	9.2	38.8
Describes self as secretive			
False	100.0	78.8	64.1
True	0.0	21.2	35.9
Describes spouse as secretive			
False	87.5	78.8	51.5
True	12.5	21.2	48.5
Describes self as sexually exciting			
False	6.3	28.6	35.5
True	93.8	71.4	64.5
Describes spouse as sexually exciting			
False	0.0	22.4	37.5
True	100.0	77.6	62.5
Describes self as too harsh/lenient with kid			
False	88.9	78.3	66.6
True	11.1	21.7	33.4
Describes spouse as too harsh/lenient with kid			
False	100.0	69.0	54.5
True	0.0	31.0	45.5
Describes self as nagging			
False	75.0	84.8	70.0
True	25.0	15.2	30.0
Describes spouse as nagging			
False	87.5	85.9	55.8
True	12.5	14.1	44.2

Table 18 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Describes spouse as flexible as parent			
False	0.0	18.3	33.9
True	100.0	81.7	66.1
Describes self as uninterested in sex			
False	100.0	92.8	83.2
True	0.0	7.2	16.8
Describes self as hurtful, mean			
False	100.0	91.9	86.5
True	0.0	8.1	13.5
Describes spouse as hurtful, mean			
False	100.0	97.9	73.8
True	0.0	2.1	26.2
Describes spouse as generous			
False	6.3	3.1	22.5
True	93.8	96.9	77.5
Describes self as too sensitive to criticism			
False	62.5	45.5	35.7
True	37.5	54.5	64.3
Describes spouse as too sensitive to criticism			
False	81.3	54.5	27.0
True	18.8	45.5	73.0
Describes spouse as unaffectionate to kids			
False	100.0	93.5	83.3
True	0.0	6.5	16.7
Describes self as trusting			
False	6.3	8.1	23.1
True	93.8	91.9	76.9

Table 18 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Describes spouse as trusting			
False	6.3	9.1	35.3
True	93.8	90.9	64.7
Describes spouse as unsympathetic			
False	100.0	92.9	63.8
True	0.0	7.1	36.2
Describes spouse as helpful in childrearing			
False	11.1	17.5	34.8
True	88.9	82.5	65.2
Describes spouse as too critical			
False	93.8	81.8	48.9
True	6.3	18.2	51.1
Describes spouse as preoccupied with sex			
False	93.8	94.9	80.2
True	6.3	5.1	19.8
Describes self as supportive			
False	0.0	4.1	16.4
True	100.0	95.9	83.6
Describes spouse as supportive			
False	0.0	8.2	40.2
True	100.0	91.8	59.8
Describes spouse as loose with money			
False	100.0	84.8	72.4
True	0.0	15.2	27.6
Describes self as “doesn’t talk”			
False	93.8	72.4	64.6
True	6.3	27.6	35.4

Table 18 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Describes spouse as “doesn’t talk”			
False	81.3	73.7	55.1
True	18.8	26.3	44.9
Describes self as emotionally disturbed			
False	100.0	87.6	80.1
True	0.0	12.4	19.9
Describes spouse as emotionally disturbed			
False	93.8	82.8	67.3
True	6.3	17.2	32.7
Describes spouse as sexually unfaithful			
False	93.8	91.9	83.1
True	6.3	8.1	16.9
Describes self as withdrawn, loner			
False	93.8	86.6	70.2
True	6.3	13.4	29.8
Describes spouse as withdrawn, loner			
False	93.8	85.9	65.7
True	6.3	14.1	34.3
Lack of understanding			
Absent	68.8	40.6	7.4
Small problem	25.0	42.7	23.1
Moderate problem	6.3	12.5	34.3
Major problem	0.0	4.2	35.1
Combined moderate or major problem	6.3	16.7	69.4
Problems in family of origin			
Absent	66.7	56.7	43.6
Small problem	20.0	29.9	21.6
Moderate problem	6.7	7.2	19.5
Major problem	6.7	6.2	15.3
Combined moderate or major problem	13.4	13.4	34.8

Table 18 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Money management problems			
Absent	62.5	55.1	31.2
Small problem	37.5	21.4	26.5
Moderate problem	0.0	14.3	23.4
Major problem	0.0	9.2	18.9
Combined moderate or major problem	0.0	23.5	42.3
Lack of love/affection			
Absent	81.3	51.0	28.8
Small problem	6.3	25.5	20.1
Moderate problem	6.3	14.3	22.0
Major problem	6.3	9.2	29.0
Combined moderate or major problem	12.6	23.5	51.0
Cannot discuss some things			
Absent	81.3	40.8	21.1
Small problem	12.5	34.7	23.8
Moderate problem	0.0	15.3	26.0
Major problem	6.3	9.2	29.1
Combined moderate or major problem	6.3	24.5	55.1
Division of spousal labor			
Absent	56.3	62.2	38.1
Small problem	37.5	24.5	29.2
Moderate problem	6.3	11.2	20.1
Major problem	0.0	2.0	12.7
Combined moderate or major problem	6.3	13.2	32.8
Relations with in-laws			
Absent	81.3	65.3	45.5
Small problem	12.5	23.5	29.2
Moderate problem	0.0	8.2	13.9
Major problem	6.3	3.1	11.4
Combined moderate or major problem	6.3	11.3	25.3

Table 18 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Cannot resolve differences			
Absent	62.5	36.7	4.2
Small problem	37.5	36.7	19.1
Moderate problem	0.0	15.3	27.2
Major problem	0.0	11.2	49.5
Combined moderate or major problem	0.0	26.5	76.7
Lack common interests			
Absent	50.0	41.8	22.4
Small problem	37.5	31.6	27.3
Moderate problem	12.5	18.4	29.4
Major problem	0.0	8.2	20.9
Combined moderate or major problem	12.5	26.6	50.3
Quality of sexual relations			
Absent	62.5	37.8	27.1
Small problem	37.5	30.6	22.8
Moderate problem	0.0	9.2	23.0
Major problem	0.0	22.4	27.1
Combined moderate or major problem	0.0	31.6	50.1
Differences in childrearing			
Absent	100.0	52.5	34.5
Small problem	0.0	36.3	29.7
Moderate problem	0.0	7.5	20.3
Major problem	0.0	3.8	15.5
Combined moderate or major problem	0.0	11.3	35.8
Not enough money			
Absent	62.5	48.0	38.9
Small problem	31.3	28.6	27.6
Moderate problem	6.3	15.3	16.1
Major problem	0.0	8.2	17.4
Combined moderate or major problem	6.3	23.5	33.5

Table 18 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Constant arguing			
Absent	87.5	67.3	19.5
Small problem	12.5	25.5	29.1
Moderate problem	0.0	5.1	25.9
Major problem	0.0	2.0	25.5
Combined moderate or major problem	0.0	7.1	51.4
Division of childcare responsibility			
Absent	80.0	65.4	46.3
Small problem	10.0	20.5	29.3
Moderate problem	10.0	11.5	15.2
Major problem	0.0	2.6	9.2
Combined moderate or major problem	10.0	14.1	24.4
Frequency of intercourse			
Absent	56.3	28.6	20.7
Small problem	43.8	34.7	24.7
Moderate problem	0.0	15.3	23.1
Major problem	0.0	21.4	31.5
Combined moderate or major problem	0.0	36.7	54.6
Differences in financial priorities			
Absent	62.5	58.2	27.5
Small problem	37.5	25.5	30.3
Moderate problem	0.0	8.2	24.2
Major problem	0.0	8.2	18.0
Combined moderate or major problem	0.0	16.4	42.2
History of marital problems			
Recent onset	54.5	20.7	5.6
Chronic minor	45.5	45.7	30.1
Chronic moderate	0.0	26.1	44.0
Chronic major	0.0	7.6	20.3
Combined chronic moderate or major problem	0.0	33.7	64.3

Table 18 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Marriage is satisfying			
False	0.0	26.5	55.6
True	100.0	73.5	44.4
Marriage has uncertain future			
False	87.5	50.0	34.6
True	12.5	50.0	65.4
Marriage is better than average			
False	12.5	26.3	57.0
True	87.5	73.7	43.0
Marriage is disappointing			
False	100.0	66.7	37.3
True	0.0	33.3	62.7
Marriage will end in divorce			
False	100.0	92.5	72.6
True	0.0	7.5	27.4
Marriage is happy			
False	0.0	26.8	64.7
True	100.0	73.2	35.3
Marriage has serious problems			
False	81.3	51.0	27.4
True	18.8	49.0	72.6
Marriage made in heaven			
False	68.8	83.7	95.0
True	31.3	16.3	5.0
Marriage is fulfilling			
False	0.0	35.1	66.0
True	100.0	64.9	34.0

Table 18 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Marriage not worth the effort			
False	100.0	98.0	92.9
True	0.0	2.0	7.1
Marriage is nearly perfect			
False	37.5	74.7	92.8
True	62.5	25.3	7.2
Marriage is worse than average			
False	100.0	90.8	65.2
True	0.0	9.2	34.8
Likely future of problems			
Most be solved	64.3	44.9	24.1
Some be solved	35.7	51.0	63.4
Most will remain	0.0	4.1	9.8
Most will worsen	0.0	0.0	2.7
Combined most will remain or will worsen	0.0	4.1	12.5
Likelihood of divorce			
Quite unlikely	81.3	54.1	31.6
Small possibility	18.8	25.5	30.1
Moderate possibility	0.0	19.4	28.2
Major possibility	0.0	1.0	10.2
Combined moderate or major possibility	0.0	20.4	38.4
Clinician report: History of marital problems			
Recent onset	62.5	18.0	5.7
Chronic minor	31.3	37.0	21.2
Chronic moderate	6.3	42.0	60.4
Chronic major	0.0	3.0	12.7
Combined chronic moderate or major problem	6.3	45.0	73.1

Table 18 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Clinician rates husband dissatisfied with affective communication			
Absent	50.0	24.5	12.5
Minor dissatisfaction	37.5	36.7	32.2
Moderate dissatisfaction	12.5	26.5	33.7
Extensive dissatisfaction	0.0	12.2	21.6
Combined moderate or extensive dissatisfaction	12.5	38.7	55.3
Clinician rates wife dissatisfied with affective communication			
Absent	56.3	13.3	5.7
Minor dissatisfaction	25.0	26.5	16.6
Moderate dissatisfaction	0.0	37.8	36.0
Extensive dissatisfaction	18.8	22.4	41.7
Combined moderate or extensive dissatisfaction	18.8	60.2	77.7
Clinician rates husband dissatisfied with problem solving communication			
Absent	68.8	7.1	3.0
Minor dissatisfaction	18.8	30.6	21.8
Moderate dissatisfaction	12.5	48.0	41.5
Extensive dissatisfaction	0.0	14.3	33.7
Combined moderate or extensive dissatisfaction	12.5	62.3	75.2
Clinician rates wife dissatisfied with problem solving communication			
Absent	62.5	5.1	1.3
Minor dissatisfaction	18.8	28.6	11.9
Moderate dissatisfaction	0.0	41.8	42.1
Extensive dissatisfaction	18.8	24.5	44.7
Combined moderate or extensive dissatisfaction	18.8	66.3	86.8
Clinician rates husband dissatisfied with time together			
Absent	50.0	30.6	17.0
Minor dissatisfaction	25.0	35.7	38.8
Moderate dissatisfaction	12.5	20.4	30.7
Extensive dissatisfaction	12.5	13.3	13.4
Combined moderate or extensive dissatisfaction	25.0	33.7	44.1

Table 18 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Clinician rates wife dissatisfied with time together			
Absent	43.8	13.3	8.3
Minor dissatisfaction	31.3	27.6	24.9
Moderate dissatisfaction	12.5	36.7	32.5
Extensive dissatisfaction	12.5	22.4	34.3
Combined moderate or extensive dissatisfaction	25.0	59.1	66.8
Clinician rates husband dissatisfied with finances			
Absent	81.3	59.8	34.3
Minor dissatisfaction	18.8	18.6	35.5
Moderate dissatisfaction	0.0	13.4	16.5
Extensive dissatisfaction	0.0	8.2	13.7
Combined moderate or extensive dissatisfaction	0.0	21.6	30.2
Clinician rates wife dissatisfied with finances			
Absent	68.8	49.5	30.8
Minor dissatisfaction	18.8	23.7	25.7
Moderate dissatisfaction	12.5	15.5	23.3
Extensive dissatisfaction	0.0	11.3	20.2
Combined moderate or extensive dissatisfaction	12.5	26.8	43.5
Clinician rates husband dissatisfied with sex			
Absent	0.0	0.0	0.4
No real dissatisfaction	56.3	27.1	22.2
Minor dissatisfaction	43.8	31.3	28.6
Moderate dissatisfaction	0.0	18.8	24.6
Extensive dissatisfaction	0.0	22.9	24.2
Combined moderate or extensive dissatisfaction	0.0	41.7	48.8
Clinician rates wife dissatisfied with sex			
Absent	0.0	0.0	0.4
No real dissatisfaction	68.8	27.1	19.1
Minor dissatisfaction	6.3	22.9	24.3
Moderate dissatisfaction	18.8	26.0	27.5
Extensive dissatisfaction	6.3	24.0	28.7
Combined moderate or extensive dissatisfaction	25.1	50.0	56.2

Table 18 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Clinician rates husband dissatisfied with role orientation			
Absent	100.0	60.2	44.1
Minor dissatisfaction	0.0	28.6	37.9
Moderate dissatisfaction	0.0	5.1	13.1
Extensive dissatisfaction	0.0	6.1	4.9
Combined moderate or extensive dissatisfaction	0.0	11.2	18.0
Clinician rates wife dissatisfied with role orientation			
Absent	62.5	36.7	26.4
Minor dissatisfaction	31.3	32.7	36.8
Moderate dissatisfaction	6.3	19.4	21.9
Extensive dissatisfaction	0.0	11.2	14.9
Combined moderate or extensive dissatisfaction	6.3	30.6	36.8
Clinician rates husband dissatisfied with global distress			
Absent	56.3	13.4	6.9
Minor dissatisfaction	25.0	46.4	35.1
Moderate dissatisfaction	18.8	26.8	34.0
Extensive dissatisfaction	0.0	13.4	24.0
Combined moderate or extensive dissatisfaction	18.8	40.2	58.0
Clinician rates wife dissatisfied with global distress			
Absent	50.0	10.3	1.9
Minor dissatisfaction	31.3	28.9	15.9
Moderate dissatisfaction	6.3	42.3	44.7
Extensive dissatisfaction	12.5	18.6	37.5
Combined moderate or extensive dissatisfaction	18.8	60.9	82.2
Clinician rates husband dissatisfied with childrearing			
Absent	62.5	40.5	28.8
Minor dissatisfaction	37.5	35.1	37.9
Moderate dissatisfaction	0.0	16.2	18.1
Extensive dissatisfaction	0.0	8.1	15.2
Combined moderate or extensive dissatisfaction	0.0	24.3	33.3

Table 18 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Clinician rates wife dissatisfied with childrearing			
Absent	50.0	35.1	21.1
Minor dissatisfaction	50.0	35.1	38.3
Moderate dissatisfaction	0.0	17.6	27.5
Extensive dissatisfaction	0.0	12.2	13.2
Combined moderate or extensive dissatisfaction	0.0	29.8	40.7
Clinician rates husband lacking commitment to marriage			
Absent	75.0	63.3	44.3
Limited problem	12.5	20.4	29.2
Moderate problem	12.5	8.2	15.5
Extensive problem	0.0	8.2	11.0
Combined moderate or extensive problem	12.5	16.4	26.5
Clinician rates wife lacking commitment to marriage			
Absent	75.0	65.3	43.8
Limited problem	25.0	20.4	29.1
Moderate problem	0.0	9.2	19.4
Extensive problem	0.0	5.1	7.7
Combined moderate or extensive problem	0.0	14.3	27.1
Clinician rates husband lacking commitment to treatment			
Absent	66.7	57.7	49.2
Limited problem	33.3	28.9	30.1
Moderate problem	0.0	9.3	15.0
Extensive problem	0.0	4.1	5.7
Combined moderate or extensive problem	0.0	13.4	20.7
Clinician rates wife lacking commitment to treatment			
Absent	73.3	79.4	64.9
Limited problem	26.7	18.6	27.2
Moderate problem	0.0	2.1	6.8
Extensive problem	0.0	0.0	1.1
Combined moderate or extensive problem	0.0	2.1	7.9

Table 18 Continued

Descriptor	Scale Range		
	Low	Mod	High
Clinician rates wife as individually disturbed			
Absent	68.8	14.3	7.8
Limited problem	25.0	42.9	33.0
Moderate problem	0.0	34.7	39.4
Extensive problem	6.3	8.2	19.9
Combined moderate or extensive problem	6.3	42.9	59.3
Clinician rates likely future of problems			
Most be solved	86.7	19.6	12.5
Some be solved	13.3	69.1	67.7
Most will remain	0.0	9.3	16.4
Most will worsen	0.0	2.1	3.4
Combined most will remain or most will worsen	0.0	11.4	19.8
Clinician rates likelihood of divorce			
Quite unlikely	56.3	28.0	20.9
Small possibility	37.5	28.0	28.3
Moderate possibility	6.3	35.0	40.8
Major possibility	0.0	9.0	10.0
Combined moderate or major possibility	6.3	44.0	50.8

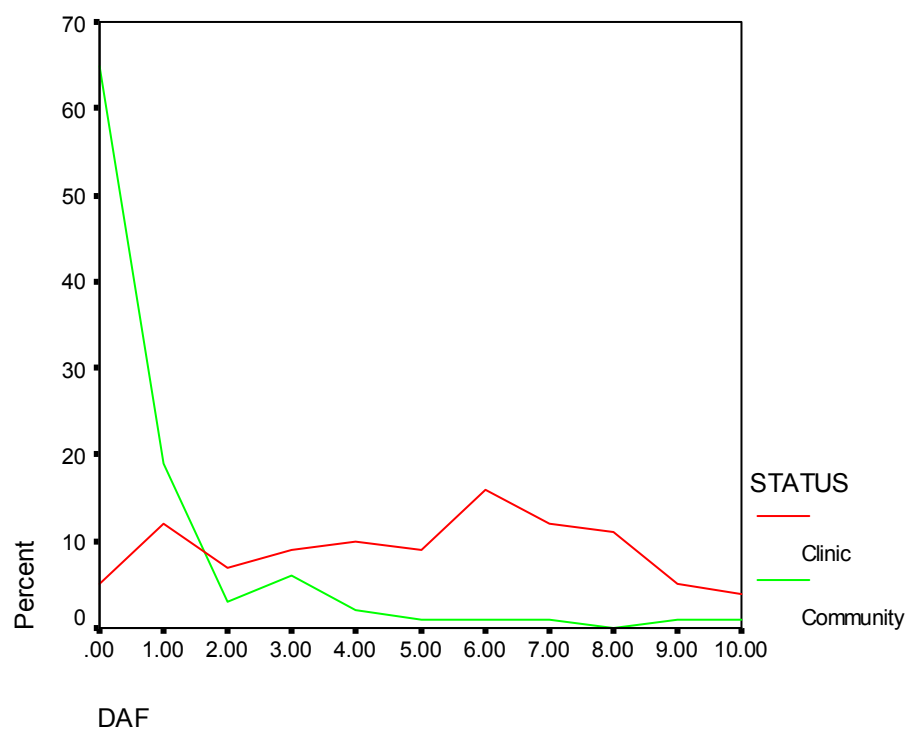


Figure 1. Frequency distribution of Disaffection (plotted as a curve) for clinic and community respondents in Detroit validation studies.

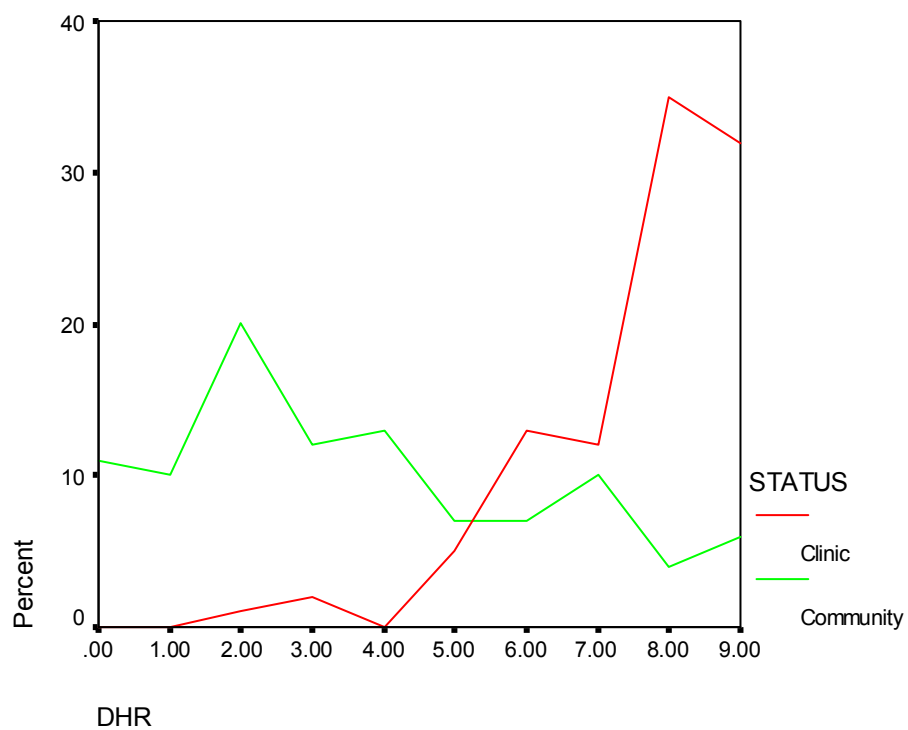
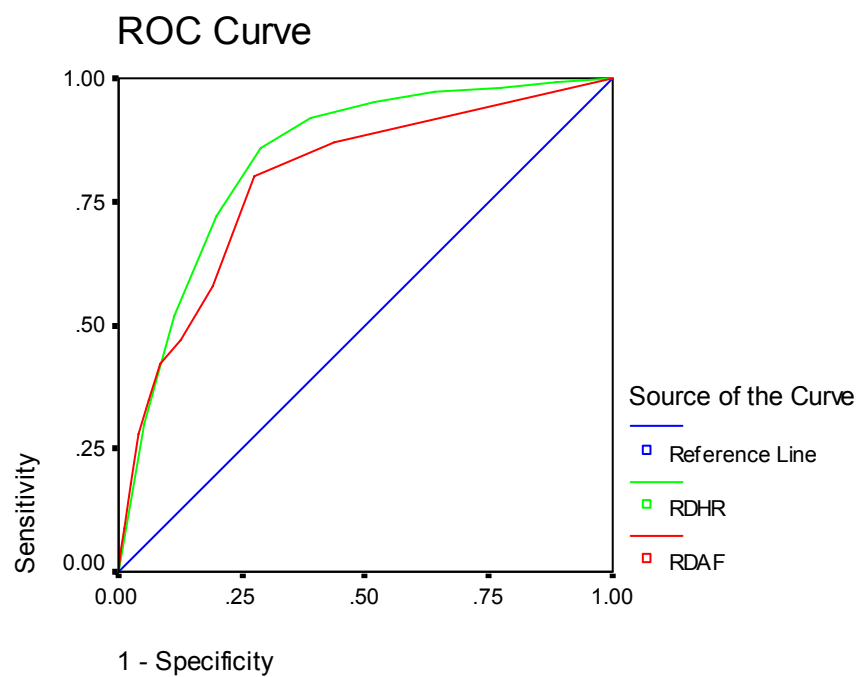
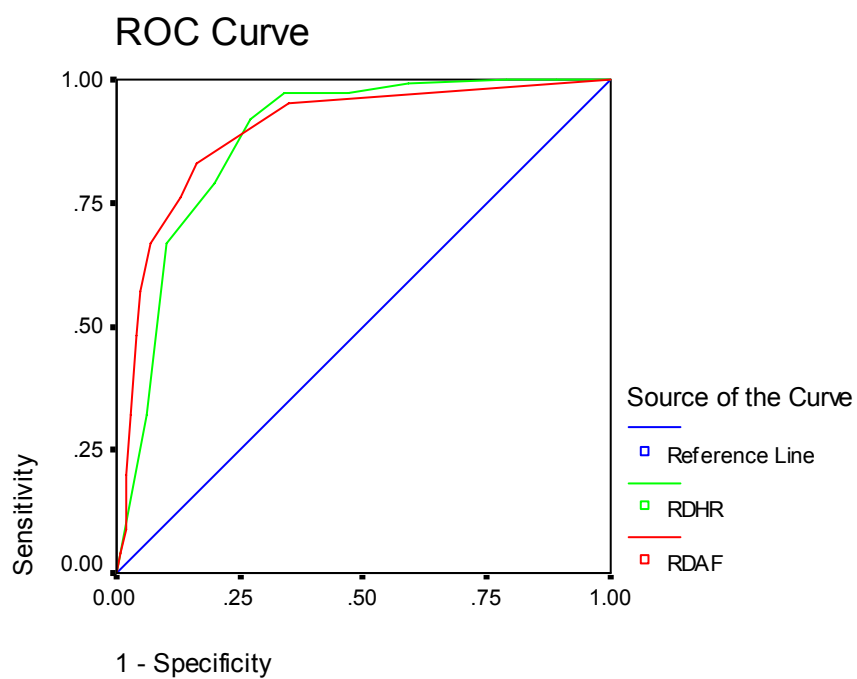


Figure 2. Frequency distribution of Disharmony (plotted as a curve) for clinic and community respondents in Detroit validation studies.



Diagonal segments are produced by ties.

Figure 3. Receiver Operating Characteristic curve based on 1020 norm couples plus 50 BCS clinic couples.



Diagonal segments are produced by ties.

Figure 4. Receiver Operating Characteristic curve based on Detroit validation studies.

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Education

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Clinical Experience

Group Therapist; Federal Prison Camp-Bryan

- 2004-2005; led psychoeducational and psychotherapy groups focusing on drug relapse prevention and drug education

Therapist; Texas A&M University Psychology Clinic

- 2003-2005; therapist for individuals and couples on a range of personal issues

Probation Counselor, Brazos County Probation

- 2003-2004; conducted psychological screenings and substance abuse evaluations

Research Activity

Joseph, J. I., Sheffield, R. L., Mitchell, A. E., Castellani, A. M., Snyder, D. K. (2004, November). *The effects of emotion dysregulation on empathy and intimacy following high- and low-threat couple interactions*. Paper presented at the Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy meeting, New Orleans.

Mitchell, A. E., Castellani, A. M., Joseph, J. I., Sheffield, R. L., & Snyder, D. K. (2004, November). Coding couples' self-disclosure and empathic listening: Mediators of intimacy during vulnerable exchanges. In S. Stanton (Chair), *Positive behaviors in close relationships: Can we see the good as well as the bad?* Symposium at Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy meeting, New Orleans.

Sheffield, R. L., Joseph, J. I., Castellani, A. M., Mitchell, A. E., & Snyder, D. K. (2004, November). *Conflict and detachment: A two-factor model of couple distress*. Paper presented at the Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy meeting, New Orleans.

Joseph, J. I., Sheffield, R. L., Castellani, A. M., Mitchell, A. E., Snyder, D. K., & Abbott, B. V. (2003, November). *Effects of adult attachment style on couples' self-disclosure, empathy, and intimacy*. Paper presented at Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy meeting, Boston.

Sheffield, R. L., Joseph, J. I., Castellani, A. M., Mitchell, A. E., Snyder, D. K., Abbott, B. V., & Hemmy, L. S. (2003, November). *Effects of emotion regulation on couples' self-disclosure, empathy, and intimacy*. Paper presented at the Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy meeting, Boston.